

Libya denies it is delaying the handover of the Lockerbie suspects

CAIRO (AP) — Libya has denied U.S.-British allegations that it is delaying the hand-over of two men wanted for the blowing up of an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. The foreign ministry said Libya "does not accept the claim that it is procrastinating to gain time as the other sides claim," the official Libyan news agency said Wednesday in a report received in Cairo. Earlier this week, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook accused Libya of delaying the case and warned it would face stiffer U.N. sanctions if it did not hand over for trial two Libyans wanted for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 270 people in 1988. In July, the U.N. Security Council backed a U.S.-British plan for the two suspects to stand trial in the Netherlands.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي.

Volume 24 Number 6981

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29-30, 1998, RAJAB 9-10, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Palestinian teenager laid to rest as power struggle brews



Relatives and classmates carry the flag-draped body of 16-year-old Wassim Tarifi during the funeral held in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Wednesday. Tarifi was shot during clashes between Fatah and Palestinian security forces on Sunday in Ramallah (AP photo).

RAMALLAH (AP) — Thousands of Palestinians marched Wednesday in the funeral procession of a 16-year-old boy killed in a power struggle between the Fatah faction of President Yasser Arafat and military intelligence agents.

The victim, Fatah supporter Wassim Tarifi, was shot to death during stone-throwing clashes outside military intelligence headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday.

Fatah leaders blamed military intelligence agents for Tarifi's death and demanded that the killers be tried and executed. No arrests have been made in connection with the death.

On Wednesday, Tarifi's body was placed on a stretcher and driven through Ramallah in an ambulance decorated with wreaths. Military vehicles led the convoy to the city's largest mosque where sobbing classmates consoled each other. Other students held black flags and posters of Tarifi.

The confrontation began when military intelligence agents raided the Fatah headquarters in Ramallah early Sunday, apparently in response to Fatah activists detaining and questioning three men training to become pilots in the budding Palestinian air force.

In the raid, seven Fatah members were arrested by military intelligence. In response, about 100 Fatah supporters threw stones at the military headquarters on Sunday. Shots were fired, and Tarifi was killed. Musa Arafat, the head of military intelligence, said

Tuesday that Fatah has been trying to get as a security force in the city and has harassed Palestinian security officers. "There cannot be two authorities in the city," Arafat said. He denied that his men killed Tarifi. Fatah's West Bank leader,

Marwan Barghouti, said the raid was part of a local power struggle. "Fatah swears that any hand laid on the sons of Fatah, or any other Palestinian by whom ever may be, that hand will be cut off," Barghouti told the mourners Wednesday.

On Tuesday, four military intelligence agents involved in the raid were convicted of violating the sanctity of the Fatah office and harming national unity. Three men were sentenced to three years and the most senior officer received a four-year term.

Premier defends measures to organise labour market

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh Wednesday said the government's measures to organise the labour market do not constitute a violation of human rights, because they are aimed at foreign labourers working illegally in the Kingdom.

Tarawneh, who was speaking during a meeting at the Public Security Department (PSD), stressed the government's concern over the implementation of provisions of the Labour Law and its regulations.

The government's measures aim at organising the entry of foreign labourers to the country and at correcting the situation of foreign labourers who entered the country illegally, said Tarawneh, adding that the measures have contributed to doubling the number of work permits which reached 91,000.

The prime minister pledged his cabinet's full support for the PSD in its measures to control and organise the local labour market and promised to direct special attention to

the recommendations and proposals of the department on the organisational structure of the Residence and Borders Department.

Tarawneh expressed the government's keenness to organise the labour offices as of next year and has instructed the labour minister to issue a circular to Jordanian embassies abroad instructing them not to grant transit visas to foreigners who are not allowed to travel to neighbouring countries.

The prime minister stressed the need for adopting strict measures against travel and tourism offices who bring in foreigners under the pretext that they are members of tourist groups while in fact they are not.

Tarawneh called for coordination between the ministries and the foreign embassies whose nationals work here as domestic helpers in a bid to reach an acceptable formula whereby the ministry will deal properly with their situation and employment offices will not be able to employ such workers illegally.

He pledged to terminate the services of foreigners working in certain trades at ministries and government departments and to replace them with Jordanians.

Tarawneh welcomed a proposal to assign special judges to examine cases of foreign workers.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Labour Mahdi Farhan, Minister of Interior Nayer Qadi and Information Minister Nasser Judeh.

At the outset of the visit, Tarawneh was briefed about the situation of foreign workers in Jordan by PSD officials.

The number of foreigners in Jordan has been estimated at 730,000 as of the beginning of September this year.

The prime minister also listened to a briefing about the mechanism to identify illegal residents and workers in the Kingdom and to deport them.

Tarawneh called at the PSD special operations room where he was briefed about the traffic situation, traffic problems and suggested solutions.

Syria, Turkey agree to improve ties after row

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria and Turkey expressed a common desire to improve ties on Wednesday after resolving a tense row over alleged Syrian support to Kurdish rebels, Syrian officials said.

They said Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa met for the first time since the flare of the crisis early this month, a Turkish security delegation led by Lieutenant General Bitash Yalman.

"The head of the Turkish team affirmed during the meeting the importance of improving the climate of Syrian-Turkish ties and to open a new chapter in cooperation between the two countries in all fields," a Syrian official said.

"Mr. Sharaa also stressed Syria's keen interest to establish the best neighbourly ties with Turkey and to work to solve all pending problems between the two countries," he said.

The Damascus meeting

coincided with reports in Ankara that Turkey might delay military exercises which were planned for early November on the Syrian border.

General Adnan Badr Hassan, chief of Syria's political security branch and head of the Syrian side at a Turkish-Syrian security committee, attended Wednesday's meeting at the Syrian foreign ministry, officials said.

Present were also ambassadors and diplomats from both sides. Syria and Turkey signed last week an agreement that ended a row over Damascus' alleged support for the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) seeking to establish self-rule in southeast Turkey.

Turkey had threatened military action unless Damascus stopped its support for the PKK.

According to the agreement which followed mediation by Egypt and Iran, Syria pledged to stop all support for the

PKK and its leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Turkey's influential national Security Council said on Tuesday it would closely monitor Syria's implementation of pledges to prevent the PKK rebel activity on its territory.

Turkey says Ocalan left his base in Syria recently for Russia but security services in Moscow said on Tuesday a search for Ocalan in Russia had so far drawn blanks.

Syrian officials did not give further details about Sharaa's talks with the Turkish delegation which appeared to focus on security issues.

Syria is also at odds with Turkey over the sharing of the River Euphrates waters and Ankara's increasing military ties with Israel.

The arrival of the Turkish team and its talks with Syrian officials in Damascus were not announced in advance.

Israeli army lifts Hebron curfew

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's army announced on Wednesday it was lifting a curfew that had kept Palestinians confined to their homes in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron since the killing on Monday of an Israeli in the West Bank town.

The move, announced by the Israeli army, also ends a closure on the Palestinian-run part of Hebron, which had prevented residents from leaving the area. The town has been a frequent flash point between Palestinians, Jewish settlers and the army.

The 24-hour curfew and closure were clamped on the divided town after Danny Vargas, an Israeli guard at a power plant in Hebron, was shot dead at close range in his car by suspected Palestinian activists and dumped on a road.

Hours later, the body of Mohammad Al Zalout was found near the Jewish settlement of Itamar outside the West Bank town of Nablus in what Palestinians believe was a tit-for-tat killing.

Palestinian police said on Tuesday they had arrested two men in the West Bank who had confessed to killing Vargas.

The incidents raised tensions in the West Bank against the backdrop of a land-for-peace deal Israel and the Palestinians signed in Washington on Friday.

U.S. maintains Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement must be implemented on time

TEL AVIV (AP) — Less than a week after signing a new land-for-peace agreement, Israelis and Palestinians accused each other Wednesday of violating it.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a Palestinian security plan is overdue and that he won't begin the West Bank troop pullback until they submit it. The Palestinians said Netanyahu, faced with growing opposition by hardliners in his government, is looking for excuses to wriggle out of the agreement.

"If the Palestinians don't give, they won't get," Netanyahu told a cheering crowd of several hundred members of his Likud Party who gathered Wednesday to hear about the deal.

Netanyahu tried to deflect criticism of the deal by

pounding away at his political opponents from the dovish Labour Party whom he accused of working against the interests of the Jewish state before losing power in 1996.

But for many in the audience, Netanyahu's continuation with the peace process begun by the Labour Party, was an act of disloyalty to his party's beliefs in retaining war-captured land.

"I voted for him and I worked for him. I stood out on the streets for months working for him and now I feel tricked, cheated," said Moshe Ben Zamora, a Jewish settler in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Opposition to the accord reached at Maryland's Wye Plantation, is growing among the settlers and their supporters.

Angry demonstrations since the signing have led to increased security for the premier and his top ministers.

On Wednesday, dozens of right-wing Israelis demonstrated outside the Tel Aviv auditorium, shouting "Vote against Wye," and "Resign, Resign." Several settler leaders were escorted out of the gathering for heckling during Netanyahu's speech.

Under the agreement, Israel is to withdraw from 13 per cent of the West Bank over 12 weeks in exchange for Palestinian measures to prevent attacks on Israelis.

Tuesday, Netanyahu raised the possibility of a delay when he postponed a cabinet meeting to ratify the accord until he receives the Palestinian security document.

The work plan for Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority to fight terrorism is Netanyahu's main selling point to his right-wing constituents and coalition partners who oppose the deal.

At least 12 members of Netanyahu's own coalition are staunchly opposed to the new peace deal and are working through parliament to bring about early elections.

Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan said without the security plan, "it will be impossible to proceed."

But Mohammad Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief in the Gaza Strip, said Netanyahu is using the work plan as a diversion.

(Continued on page 12)

Football association recommends replay of ill-fated Faisali-Qadissieh match

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The disciplinary committee of the Jordan Football Association (JFA) on Wednesday recommended the replay of the ill-fated match between Al Faisali and Al Qadissieh wherein the former withdrew from the game following the cancellation of its only goal.

A spokesman for the committee, who asked not to be named, said the decision, which is yet to be approved by the JFA, was taken following a five-hour meeting.

The official told the Jordan Times that punishments were also recommended against some Al Faisali fans and administrators who allegedly took part in assaulting the match's referee Dirar Tamimi and his assistants Ma'moun Alawneh and Yousef

Shahen.

"Some measures were recommended in line with our regulations against those who beat the referees, but all these recommendations should be approved by the JFA," the official said.

During their match on Sunday, Al Faisali players protested a decision by referee Tamimi and his assistant Alawneh to rule that striker Jeryes Tadros' goal was offside.

Among the recommendations the committee adopted was not to consider the Faisali act as a "walkout" from the game, which will spare the club from a severe punishment.

"Following the attack on the referees, Dirar stopped the game. Why? It is not clear yet. This is what the JFA is going to investigate," the official said.

He added that the JFA was

scheduled to hold an urgent meeting late Wednesday evening to take a final decision on the stand-off.

According to international football rules, any team that walks out from a match will be considered the loser.

Al Faisali's rival Al Wihdat is currently leading the Premier League list with 34 points, one point ahead of Al Faisali. Al Wihdat on Monday beat Al Jazirah 3-0.

Majid Khreishah, a member of Al Faisali's management council, said his club will accept only the decision that renders justice to his team.

"It is premature to say what our reaction is to such a decision, but we have to wait for the final rule of the football association," Khreishah told the Jordan Times.

"If Faisali is treated unjustly it

will not participate in the Premier League contests. Our decision is to suspend our participation until the final decision of the JFA," he added.

Rapporteur of the Referees Committee, Abdul Latif Abdul Majeed, said his committee held a meeting yesterday to decide on the legitimacy of the cancelled goal.

Abdul Majeed stressed that the committee reviewed the video tapes of the match to decide whether Tamimi's decision, which drew an angry reaction from Al Faisali players, was a correct step.

Al Faisali President Sultan Udwan met on Tuesday with the JFA Vice-President Saleh Irshaid and discussed with him his club's demands. The two officials were tight-lipped about their meeting.

Meanwhile, the rapporteur of the JFA, Mohammed Hamdan, submitted his resignation to Irshaid for unspecified reasons.

Hamdan, who is also the president of Al Qadissieh Club, said no decision was yet taken by JFA President HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

"There are some controversial issues regarding this standoff. I prefer to remain neutral. I cannot interfere since I am the president of Al Qadissieh," Hamdan told the Jordan Times. He did not elaborate.

"The resignation is to enable the JFA's council to take proper decision regarding the ratification of this issues," he added.

A spokesman for Al Ramtha Club, Sali Zoubi, which according to the new amendment of the Premier League timetable is scheduled to meet with Al Wihdat

on Friday, said they will not play their upcoming match.

Zoubi said that, following the Al Faisali-Al Qadissieh crisis, the JFA has decided to amend the Premier League's timetable without consulting the football clubs. "We were scheduled to meet with another team, but the new arrangement put us against Al Wihdat. This is not fair. We have decided not to play the game as such," Zoubi said.

He noted that his club supports Al Faisali in their dispute with the JFA "because it is time to end the referees' mistakes that occur again and again."

"We have faced such a problem before because of referees' mistakes. We cannot control our angry fans when such mistakes are committed. Something should be done to end this fiasco," Zoubi told the Jordan Times.

Stand-off between government, independent press in Algeria

Seven papers continue printing suspensions over 'debt' row

ALGIERS (AFP) — Newsstands in Algiers were devoid of major newspapers Wednesday as a stand-off continued between the independent press and authorities accused of trying to muzzle it.

The crisis began two weeks ago over what was initially depicted as a "commercial dispute" between major newspapers and state-run printing companies.

As far as the managing directors of the leading dailies El Watan and Le Matin are concerned, the conflict is entirely political, however.

Five other dailies have suspended publication out of solidarity: La Tribune, Le Soir d'Algérie, Liberté, Al Khabar and Le Quotidien d'Oran.

The commercial dispute was over the settling of outstanding debts to the printing companies, which issued a 48-hour ultimatum

on Oct. 14 demanding immediate payment, failing which they would refuse to print the papers.

The papers preempted the move by suspending operations.

The bosses of El Watan and Le Matin told AFP and other newspapers that the printing companies refused to accept settlement of the debts, when offered.

"We are at an impasse," Le Matin's Mohammad Benichou told AFP. "We are hoping for a political solution, but we have no interlocutor."

The ultimatum came shortly after articles in Le Matin attacking a close aide of President Liamine Zeroual, his adviser Mohammed Betchine, accusing him of "wheeling and dealing" and "abuses of power."

In addition, the papers published accusations by magistrates who claimed that Justice Minister Mohammad Adami was

putting pressure on them in articles that also revealed certain "excesses" in Adami's private life.

The revelations eventually brought about the resignations of both men about 10 days ago.

On Tuesday a strike called by the 200-strong Algerian national journalists' union (SNJ) kept an eighth newspaper off the streets on Wednesday. La Nouvelle République. Three other papers, from cities west of Algiers, also did not publish Wednesday out of solidarity — the Ouest Tribune, Le Quotidien d'Oran and Errai.

The manager of Oran du Soir d'Algérie, Slimane Bessaïeh, announced that he would start a hunger strike on Wednesday "until the newspapers return to the kiosks."

Louisa Hanoune, spokeswoman of the Workers' Party, demanded that President Zeroual intervene "to

clean up the atmosphere and bring a halt to actions that exacerbate the political rot."

The government has maintained absolute silence on the affair since spokesman Habib Chawki Hamraoui said when it erupted that it was a dispute between the printing companies, which operate independently even if state-owned, and the newspapers.

The independent press — including papers that are continuing to appear — and the SNJ vehemently reject the claim.

El Watan and Le Matin said they had received expressions of support from around the country. Benichou of Le Matin said "thousands of signatures" were gathered in Tizi Ouzou and Annaba, to the east of Algiers, and Oran to the west.

A protest march is planned Thursday in Tizi Ouzou.



French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio (R) Wednesday supervises divers manoeuvring a granite sphinx whose head portrays Cleopatra's father. Goddio's team hoisted the sphinx out of Alexandria bay during a presentation of its findings in an excavation of the sunken royal quarter of the ancient city founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC (Reuters photo)

Sphinx of Cleopatra's father emerges from Alexandria harbour

ALEXANDRIA (R) — A granite sphinx with the head of Cleopatra's father emerged on Wednesday from the choppy waters of Alexandria harbour after 1,600 years under water.

Divers led by French marine archaeologist Franck Goddio winched the superbly-preserved sphinx, booted into a steel frame, onto the deck of research vessel Princess Doudou.

They also brought up a stunning statue of the Great Priest of Isis holding an urn, thought to have been part of a sanctuary of Isis on Antikhodos island, the focus of this year's underwater excavations in Alexandria bay.

"This is one of the most beautifully preserved statues of its kind and very rare," Goddio told reporters, referring to the 250 kilogramme priestly statue from the first century A.D.

Goddio, president of the Paris-based European Institute of Underwater Archaeology, was presenting the results of a

third year of exploration of the sunken royal quarter of the ancient city founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC.

The city, where the lives of Cleopatra, Julius Caesar and Mark Antony intertwined, disappeared beneath the sea more than 1,600 years ago after a series of earthquakes and flood waves.

Goddio's 35-member team used global satellite positioning devices to map out the royal quarter, lying five metres under water, not far from the busy modern city sea front.

During this year's excavations of the submerged island and royal port of Antikhodos, where Cleopatra had a palace, the team found a well-preserved shipwreck 30 metres long.

A statement by the French institute said radio-carbon dating on wood samples put the age of the ship at between 90 B.C. and 130 A.D. Artefacts

found on it include rigging, ceramics, remains of food, glass shards and jewellery.

"The wreck is an important find for the explorers, not least because of its state of preservation, but also because of its location in the private [royal] harbour," it said. "Evidence from a hole in the ship's hull suggests that it could have sunk after being rammed by another boat."

Zsolt Kiss, an art and archaeology expert at the Polish Academy of Science, told a news conference he was confident the head of the sphinx represented Ptolemy XII, Cleopatra's father.

"Isn't it wonderful to find the father of Cleopatra on the island of Antikhodos, where Cleopatra's palace stood?" he said.

Cleopatra, born in 69 B.C., was 17 when her father died. She was the last of the Pharaohs and when she took her own life in 30 B.C., Egypt

came under direct Roman imperial rule.

The sphinx and statue plucked from the seabed on Wednesday were to be returned there immediately, but may eventually be housed in the Alexandria Museum. Egyptian officials said most of the French team's finds would be left in place.

Jaballa Ali Jaballah, secretary general of Egypt's State Supreme Council for Antiquities, said he hoped the whole site could be turned into an underwater museum, possibly involving installation of glass-walled viewing tunnels.

He said the council had endorsed the idea, but still had to persuade the government it was feasible and find the funds.

"First we have to clean up the water," he said, adding that local authorities had promised to stop all sewage dumping into the harbour's murky depths by the end of the year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent sends message to Zeroual

ALGIERS (Petra) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual Wednesday received a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, dealing with bilateral relations. The message was delivered by Senate President Zeid Rifai during a meeting at the Republican Palace in Algiers. Rifai began an official visit to Algeria on Saturday in response to an invitation from his Algerian counterpart, Bashir Boume'za.

UNESCO grants Petra \$100,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation has granted \$100,000 to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, to enhance the capacity of its computerised photo archiving. Petra will buy two scanners to increase the number of its archived pictures to 500, up from 200, according to Shafiq Obeidat, director of the Petra Information Centre.

Knesset delays budget vote

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament on Wednesday delayed a vote on the first reading of the government's 1999 draft budget until Monday after a no-confidence motion was attached to the spending bill. The opposition ultra-nationalist Moledet party submitted the motion as part of its battle against the interim peace deal Israel signed with the Palestinians last week. Netanyahu's office said it was trying to move up the vote to Sunday.

U.K. parliament says Bahrain violates rights

LONDON (R) — The British parliament's human rights observers on Wednesday accused Bahrain of systematically violating human rights and said dissenters in the Gulf state had been arrested, tortured and jailed under summary justice. There are about 1,500 people currently detained without trial in the tiny island state, said the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group and the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales. The report said the Bahraini government had resisted any discussion about change since parliament was dissolved in 1975. The report said Bahrain's state Security Court functioned as a component in the "engine of repression." "Defendants are subject to arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention and inadequate prison conditions," the report said.

'Netanyahu caused Pollard huge damage'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli who has laboured for years to win the release of American spy Jonathan Pollard said on Wednesday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spat with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the issue seriously harmed Pollard's cause.

Amnon Drot, who headed the public committee for Pollard, said Netanyahu's government had made repeated mistakes on the matter since his election in 1996, culminating in the ultimatum he served Clinton for Pollard's release during Israeli-Palestinian peace talks last week.

"Last week's fiasco caused huge damage to Jonathan's cause. Netanyahu's drama was unnecessary," Drot told Reuters on Wednesday. "It only increased the antagonism of administration officials

in Washington, among them people who might otherwise support his release," he said at his home in Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu's communications chief declined to comment on the criticism. Drot said the key to Pollard's release was quiet diplomacy and a strong showing of Israeli remorse. He said Netanyahu's decision last May to recognise Pollard as his spy and the recent rush by Israeli officials, including top cabinet ministers, to visit Pollard in his prison cell may have undermined his cause.

"This is a terrible mistake. It makes people in Washington feel Israel is proud of what Jonathan did. The perception is that the government is trying to paint Pollard as a national hero," he added.

Report on convention's implementation to be submitted this month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will present a draft report on the implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the United Nations CEDAW Committee at the end of this month, a UNICEF statement said.

The report, which is being prepared by the Jordan National Commission

for Women, will include the progress made in relation to legislation, health, education and opportunities available for women in the country, according to the statement.

"This will be the first report discussed by the New York-based CEDAW committee on the situation of Jordanian women," said Mirak Elias, UNICEF representative in Jordan.

Jordan signed CEDAW in 1980 and ratified it in 1992, entering reservations on three articles pertaining to the Nationality Law, Equality in Legal and Civil Responsibility and Marriage and Family Relations.

Elias added that "through UNICEF's work, which is to provide technical assistance to its partners — the government and NGOs — the fund assisted the JNCW in the preparation of the report by bringing a CEDAW consultant from Egypt as well as holding a series of specialised meetings with representatives for the judicial authority, the government and NGOs."

Last year, the Planning Ministry of signed a five-year plan for operation with UNICEF. Under the plan, UNICEF committed itself to helping strengthen the monitoring and promotion of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and CEDAW in cooperation with the Jordanian government. UNICEF will also promote maternal and child health, education and community empowerment.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

Thursday Programmes

15:10 Cartoon — Superman

15:30 Drama — Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

16:00 Doc. — Life on the Digital Edge

17:00 French Programme

18:15 Sliders — Sparks

19:00 Le Journal

19:15 Science Magazine — L'oeuf De Colomb

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — Family Matters

20:00 Doc. — Museums of the World

20:30 Drama — Dr. Quinn the Medicine Woman

21:10 Oprah Winfrey

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature film — "Class Action"

23:59 Comedy — The Boys

00:30 End of T.X.

Friday Programmes

15:10 Pocahontas

15:30 Treasure Hunt

16:00 French film

18:15 The Simpsons

19:00 Le Journal

19:15 French Programme — Allo La Terre

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

20:00 Cinema. Cinema

20:30 Babylon-5

21:10 Inside the Internet

22:00 News in English

22:30 The X-Files

23:10 The Halifax

23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 Fajr

05:45 (Sunrise) Duha

11:19 Dhur

14:26 Asr

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

16:54 Maghreb

18:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4623266

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to drop significantly with rainfall in the northern regions gradually extending to the central parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be westerly moderate accompanied by occasional strong gusts. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 13/19

Aqaba 18/27

Deserts 10/24

Jordan Valley 18/28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 31

Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun 18

Jerash 24

Um Qays 23

Madaba 22

Petra 24

Dead Seas 30

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Massour 4750197

Dr. Khalil Ramadan 5388723

Dr. Sa'ad Tawfik 4788285

Dr. Nidal Dahleh 5827195

Firas pharmacy 5661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 4637055

Natvold pharmacy 4623672

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy 4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660

Najib pharmacy 5347632

IRBID:

Dr. Lutfi Shalabi (02) 241798

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Salah Saffarini (09) 987565

Khalifeh pharmacy (09) 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Blood Bank 4775121

Highway Police 5343402

Traffic office 4896390

Public Security Dept. 4630321

Hotel Complaints 5605800

Price Complaints 5661176

Water & Sewage Complaints 489467

Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 0132

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 4773111

Radio Jordan 4774111

Water Authority 5680100

J. Electricity Authority 5815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic, Abdli 56661317

Hussein Medical Centre 5858656

Luzmila 4630195

Khalidi Maternity 46442816

Akileh Maternity 46424412

Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362

Malhes, J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 5660701

Shmeisani Hospital 5669131

Jordan Hospital 5607550

University Hospital 5333444

Al-Musasher Hospital 56672719

Al-Ahli, Abdli 56641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 47771013

Princess Sarvath highlights Islam's role in women's emancipation

LONDON (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath has stressed that Islam must be recognised as a potent force for the emancipation of women, according to her latest address in the legal, social, economic, political and civil spheres.

Islam "gave women the right to paid work, to own, inherit and bequeath property, and to learning, to perform the pilgrimage, and, if necessary, to take part in jihad to defend one's religion," said Princess Sarvath in her 1998 Lord Caradon Lecture on women and minorities in Islam.

"In short, all spheres of temporal life are equally open to all Muslims. Nothing in the Holy Koran is exclusive to men," said Princess Sarvath.

Princess Sarvath noted that Islam maintains a fundamental message of equality between men and women and stresses that neither man nor woman is secondary to

the other but rather that they are partners, without any priority or superiority.

On the subject of how Islam regards members of other faiths, Princess Sarvath explained that Islam promotes peaceful coexistence.

The Holy Koran describes the followers of Islam, Christianity and Judaism as "people of the book," all sharing the revelation of one God and all worthy of respect, Princess Sarvath said.

Princess Sarvath emphasised that there should be no doubt that Islam is a religion with foundations that are firmly based on the recognition of human equality, tolerance, and quality of life.

Princess Sarvath noted the host of misconceptions about Islam and its teachings in many parts of the world, calling for developing a true knowledge of what the religion stands for and its tolerant and peaceful nature.

In her lecture, the Princess



pointed to "the justifiable pride" Jordanians have in achievements that have been wrought against great odds in many spheres of life.

Princess Sarvath said Jordanian laws are conducive to women attaining a status that is in keeping with the essence of the religion and the aspirations of the leadership of the country. Women, Princess Sarvath pointed out, stand for election, serve in Parliament, hold responsible government positions and are actively involved in every sphere of life.

Princess Sarvath also said

all Jordanians enjoy the same rights and obligations and have complete freedom to exercise their religious duties.

"An enlightened Muslim society in which the ideal and the reality merge to create a nation in which all people, men and women, Muslims and non-Muslims, are free to live in the atmosphere of freedom, tolerance and mutual respect that our Prophet preached and advocated all those centuries ago, is a worthy goal for all true Muslims to aspire towards," said Princess Sarvath.

Conservation society, government reach settlement over dam in nature reserve

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — Ending a controversy over a proposed diversion dam on the Mujib River, the Jordan Valley Authority and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding to construct an environment-friendly dam.

The memorandum concerns an ecology-friendly water extraction project and ecosystem development of the Mujib River area, alongside the globally-important 215-square-kilometre Mujib Nature Reserve, established in 1986.

The project will include constructing a low dam across the mouth of the river to supply hotels, industries and agriculture around the Dead Sea and in Ghor Safi.

The JD300,000 eco-tourism development project will include setting up a visitors centre in the reserve, a small lagoon, a campsite and a cantilevered walkway on the rock wall of the Mujib gorge.

"These projects will be a model of environmentally sensitive development, or what is now commonly known as sustainable development," Society President Anis Mouasher told reporters at the signing ceremony. "The government proved that it puts environmental protection as a priority and is committed to imple-

menting the National Environment Strategy."

In 1991, the Kingdom adopted the Middle East's first National Environmental Strategy, which was formulated by an international conservation body with the help of more than 180 Jordanian specialists.

Mouasher added that the government is determined to enhance cooperation with non-governmental organisations.

"I believe that the government will continue to support voluntary bodies and enhance their roles," he said.

Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Duraid Mahasneh reviewed the "firm, decades-long" cooperation with the society to protect the country's natural resources.

"These integrated projects were a result of understanding each other's objectives in order to preserve the environment and exploit water resources for the country's interest," Mahasneh said.

In September, the government announced plans to construct a diversion dam at the point where Wadi Mujib meets Wadi Waleh, in the heart of the reserve.

The project is part of the JD180 million Integrated Project to Develop the Southern Ghor Area. A consortium of international and local companies have signed four agreements worth JD6.4 million with the Ministry of Water and

Irrigation to supervise and provide architectural services in the implementation of the project.

The ministry responded positively to the society's request for an environmental impact assessment of the dam and studied an alternative site proposed by the society. It agreed later to move the extraction scheme location from within the reserve to the end of the Mujib gorge, near the river delta and the Dead Sea Road bridge.

According to the society, the new proposed project would be around JD10 million less than the original plan and would provide more water because of the presence of springs in the lower part of the Mujib River.

The Wadi Mujib environmental impact assessment, which was conducted by a local independent consulting firm, revealed that "the [original] proposed diversion weir [dam] would have been the most damaging project to the area."

According to the society, if the original project had been implemented, its tunnels, roads and other installations would have "changed the physical and chemical conditions, such as the speed of the water flow and oxygen levels, posing a threat to the special ecological value of the wadi system."

"Species living in and

around the river downstream from the weir will be destroyed, since the river bed will be dry for 80 per cent of the year because of the dam," said a society report.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Hani Mulki earlier said "the dam will not be constructed at the expense of the environment, and this is the most important thing."

Mujib, which sits on the Great Rift Valley linking Africa with Asia, forms a safe haven for migratory birds and is home to at least 10 globally-threatened species.

According to the society, Mujib is one of the cleanest and least disturbed river systems left in Jordan. It is part of the water catchment for the Dead Sea and always has flowing water, even in the summer. It flows out to the Dead Sea through a narrow sandstone gorge lined with palm trees and lush vegetation.

Twenty endangered Nubian ibex bred in captivity were recently released into the Mujib Nature Reserve to supplement the country's small natural population.

Operating under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the RSCN, a non-governmental society which manages six nature reserves and has plans to set up another seven, was formed in 1966 and is responsible for protecting the Kingdom's natural resources, wildlife and wild areas.

Change in women's political, social status will be 'long-term' — activist

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — Women have to resign themselves to the fact that changes in their status will be long-term, Amal Sabbagh, secretary general of the Jordanian National Forum for Women said Wednesday.

Sabbagh, citing a recent survey entitled "Jordanian Society" conducted by the Oslo-based Institute for Applied Social Science (FAFO) in cooperation with the Department of Statistics, said attitudes towards women are entrenched and extreme.

"The legal reform concerning amending laws that discriminate against women is slow, and there is resistance to change," she noted.

Sabbagh, who was speaking at a lecture on "Promoting Women's Equal Status Through Legal Reforms — A Critical Discussion of German and Jordanian Experiences," said "empowerment of women should be on all fronts: social, economic and political."

Some findings of the FAFO survey she cited indicated that four in five Jordanians believe men are more capable of political work than women, and even if a man and a woman had the same qualities and capabilities, 68.5 per cent of women would vote for a man.

One in five men do not want women to vote, and the majority of those surveyed saw women's main role at home, according to the study.

An alarming factor in the survey, she maintained, is the opposition from young men aged 20 to 24 and youth in general to women's political par-

ticipation, with 57 per cent against the idea of female parliamentarians or ministers, and 40 per cent against women working for charities.

The survey, which consisted of interviews with a representative sample of 6,000 households from all over the country, is the most updated survey so far on living conditions in Jordan.

'An alarming factor in the survey is the opposition from young men aged 20 to 24 and youth in general to women's political participation, with 57 per cent against the idea of female parliamentarians or ministers, and 40 per cent against women working for charities'

Sabbagh also touched upon the social status of women, stating that "it is seldom that women are thought of as human beings in their own right."

"Actually, women's social status is linked to many factors, including awareness of oneself and status within the family and society, as well as other factors such as education, health, and images in the media. Those factors affect women from the cradle to the grave," she said.

Senator Leila Sharaf pointed out that another factor contributing to the minimal presence of women in political life is "women themselves looking at jobs as a transitional period, meaning from school to marriage, or looking at a diploma as some kind of a

dowry for their marriage."

She stressed that women should be united, fight for clear goals and be focused. "We have to put the blame on ourselves a little bit, since most women would prefer to vote for men because in most cases they are jealous of other women," Sharaf, a former minister of social development, said.

He added that this will help establish a cultural dialogue on the question and raise awareness on the situation of women in Jordanian society.

Joel Salem-Pickartz, one of the founders of Al Kutba Institute for Human Development, stated that the organisation aims at empowering women at various levels of public influence and helping them take charge of the political, social and economic aspects of life.

During the evening session, lawyer Asma Khader spoke about legislation which she said still deprives women of their "humanity and human rights, which in turn deprives women of freedom."

"In addition to changing laws, we should also work on changing public opinion and current cultural attitudes. This can be achieved through education, media, workshops and programmes," Khader said.

She added that women will never be able to improve their conditions or achieve true equality "unless they become a political power by joining political parties and unions, which will enable them to enter political life."

The event was organised by the Al Kutba Institute for Human Development and the Goethe-Institut in Amman.

women's movement in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The director of the Goethe-Institut in Amman, Wolfgang Ule, said one of the aims of the gathering is presenting the German past and present in relation to the changes of the legal status of women within the family and the legal foundations of equality of women.

He added that this will help establish a cultural dialogue on the question and raise awareness on the situation of women in Jordanian society.

Joel Salem-Pickartz, one of the founders of Al Kutba Institute for Human Development, stated that the organisation aims at empowering women at various levels of public influence and helping them take charge of the political, social and economic aspects of life.

During the evening session, lawyer Asma Khader spoke about legislation which she said still deprives women of their "humanity and human rights, which in turn deprives women of freedom."

"In addition to changing laws, we should also work on changing public opinion and current cultural attitudes. This can be achieved through education, media, workshops and programmes," Khader said.

She added that women will never be able to improve their conditions or achieve true equality "unless they become a political power by joining political parties and unions, which will enable them to enter political life."

The event was organised by the Al Kutba Institute for Human Development and the Goethe-Institut in Amman.

Teachers submit request to Tarawneh for professional union

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee representing teachers seeking to establish a professional association has sent a letter to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh requesting permission for a union in order to promote the profession in Jordan and handle teachers' affairs.

The committee's chairperson, Ahmad Freihat, who signed the letter, requested that Tarawneh meet with the committee members, who would propose legislation for the association.

In the letter, Freihat said that tens of thousands of Jordanian teachers are deprived of "an umbrella" that would handle

teachers' affairs and promote their profession. He added that the continued absence of such an association is being reflected negatively on the hundreds of thousands of students in the country.

The letter said Jordan's "serious cultural, scientific, political and economic challenges" require a mobilisation of all types of potential to help the country deal with developments in the coming century.

The Constitution considers all individuals equal, noted the statement, and in this respect, teachers are entitled to have their own association, similar to

the other professional unions operating in Jordan.

The National Charter states that "the teaching profession deserves due care and attention so that it can fulfil its social role, and teachers should be provided with the necessary qualifications and involved in the decision-making process... This cannot be attained except through the organisation of the teaching profession," said the letter.

A teachers' association, which the letter said educators have been trying to establish for decades, could also support the Ministry of Education.

Meeting to discuss Arab free trade zone opens Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The 35th meeting of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture will open Sunday in Amman with the participation of 250 delegates to discuss the creation of an Arab free trade zone.

The chairperson of the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Haidar Murad, and the president of the Amman

Chamber of Industry, Khalid Abu Hassan, said the conference, entitled "The Arab free trade zone in the age of globalisation," will also be attended by representatives of joint Arab-foreign chambers and Islamic chambers of commerce in addition to a number of organisations.

Murad and Abu Hassan said the two-day conference, to be held under the

patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, comes at a time when the Arab states are displaying a desire to mobilise their efforts towards economic integration and increased inter-Arab trade exchanges.

Economic integration within the Arab region will facilitate the flow of trade, the movement of capital and workers and the creation of giant firms, they said.

International crafts organisation opens meeting in Amman

By Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the 22nd World Crafts Council (WCC), Asia Pacific Assembly, began yesterday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

A total of 22 countries are participating in the six-day event. From Jordan, the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project and the Jordan River Foundation as well as other weavers are taking part.

The bsatt (woven floor covering) is the focal point of the WCC's annual meeting this year. Topics will include bsatt in the tourism and marketing context as well as means of encouraging practice of the art.

"We will discuss the bsatt as a means for intercultural exchange and transfer of an old traditional technique. Intellectual property rights and crafts in light of marketing tourism will also be debated," Samia Zaru, WCC executive coordinator, told the Jordan Times.

Thursday's sessions will be held at the Taybet Zaman village, where participants will present working papers and be given the chance to weave.

Zaru stressed the role of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in this event as "we believe that there is a strong correlation between tourism and marketing crafts."

Government support of this tradition, which Zaru said "is in danger of fading away," will also be debated.

The WCC, which held last year's meeting in China, holds annual meetings in member countries. At these gatherings, participants are given the opportunity to exchange expertise in the development and adaptation of traditional hand-made weavings.

The assembly concludes on Nov. 2 with a visit to the Makawir weavers village.

what's going on

FILMS

* "Sangre y arena" (in Spanish) at Instituto Cervantes, Jhal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 4610858).

* Broadcast News" at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* The Dome of the Rock, Between Architecture and Urbanism" by Abdullah Ghosheh at Darat Al Funn, Jhal Weibdeh on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

CONCERTS

* Musical performance by Freddy for Music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m. (Daily until Oct. 29).

EXHIBITIONS

* "Masterworks of the Spanish Contemporary Architecture and Presentation of Architecture Guide: Spain 1920-2000" at Instituto Cervantes, Jhal Amman, until Nov. 6.

* Display of sculptures, album of 12

silk screens, ink drawings, and other artwork by artist Mona Saudi at her residence, Abdoun, Mustafa Kamel Street (Tel. 5929700), until Oct. 29.

* Ceramics by Ra'd and Ahmad Al Delaimi at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 5536098), until Nov. 5.

* Display of autumn collection at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Saqra St. until Oct. 31 (Tel. 5699141/2).

* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfia Al Sa'di, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Funn, Jhal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).

* "Calligraphy on Crafts" at the Jordan Craft Centre (Al Aydi), Jhal Amman (Tel. 4644555), until October 31.

SEMINAR

* "Melancholy and Treatment" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Saturday Nov. 31 at 9:00 p.m.



BIRTHDAY CARD FOR KING HUSSEIN: Jordanians sign a letter Wednesday to His Majesty King Hussein to mark his 63rd birthday, which falls on Nov. 14. The letter, measuring 250 metres by 75 centimetres, was signed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who wrote a message to the King, and by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah. The letter, which is the brainchild of the Jordan Society for Culture and Peace, can be signed by Jordanian citizens from various parts of the country in accordance with a prepared schedule (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

Argentine president arrives in Britain for reconciliation visit

LONDON (AP) — In a simple ceremony of reconciliation, Argentine President Carlos Menem Wednesday laid a wreath at St. Paul's Cathedral to honour the dead of the 1982 war over the still-disputed Falkland Islands.

Menem, the first Argentine president to visit Britain officially since the war, placed the wreath of blue-and-white flowers before a plaque listing the 255 British soldiers slain in the 74-day conflict.

He made the sign of the cross and stood in silence, head bowed, for a minute. His daughter, Zulema, 28, wept by his side, brushing tears away from under her dark glasses.

Most of the 970 soldiers killed were Argentines, many of them young conscripts sent to the windswept south Atlantic archipelago by the then-

military junta.

Prince Andrew, who flew combat missions as a helicopter pilot during the war, saluted during the ceremony, leading a group of military officers and veterans at the service in the crypt of St. Paul's.

The wreath-laying was intended to deflect from the dispute over the Falklands, whose 2,200-strong population is of British descent.

During Menem's six-day visit, officials hope to focus on booming trade and generally good relations with Argentina's democratically elected government.

"We can agree to disagree," Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said before the service, referring to the Falklands. "This idea of agreeing to disagree is a very British idea."

Earlier, Menem, who brought 100 business lead-

ers with him, met British industry chiefs for breakfast.

"The time has come for both nations to leave behind us misunderstandings and mistrust that have separated us for years," he told the gathering.

In a letter to a British tabloid Friday, the Argentine president stopped short of an apology, but said he deeply regretted the war and that it "should never have happened." Foreign Secretary Robin Cook noted Tuesday that Menem was a prisoner of the military junta in 1982, was held for five years and tortured.

"The fact that he is the president of Argentina shows how far it has come," Cook said.

Menem is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Queen Elizabeth II during his visit.



Prince Andrew (left) and the President of Argentina Carlos Menem shake hands on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral following an Act of Remembrance service. Menem laid a wreath during the service for victims of the Falklands war. The Prince is a Falklands war veteran (Reuters photo)

Pinochet awaits British court ruling

LONDON (AFP) — Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was due to learn Wednesday whether a legal challenge to his arrest and detention in London has been successful.

But even if Britain's High Court rules unlawful Pinochet's arrest pending an extradition request by a Spanish judge investigating allegations of murder, torture and kidnapping during his 17-year rule, he was unlikely to be freed immediately.

Legal experts believe that even if the court rules in Pinochet's favour, it would order that the 72-year-old remain under arrest until an appeal could be heard by the House of Lords.

Pinochet has been under police guard since Oct. 16 at a private London clinic where he was recovering from back surgery.

He was arrested after a request by Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon who wants to extradite him to Spain for questioning over the alleged torture and murder of Spanish citizens during his 1973-1990 dictatorship.

His lawyers have argued that as a former head of state he was immune from arrest.

Pinochet's son Marco Antonio, who has been in London for the past week,

said Tuesday his father was "in a very fragile condition". After visiting the ailing general Tuesday, he told Chilean television: "If the situation continues... I don't see much hope of him recovering."

Regardless of the High Court's ruling, expected at around 2:00 p.m. (1400 GMT), Pinochet's legal headaches have intensified in recent days, as judicial authorities and Chilean exiles around Europe have launched bids to have him face murder and human rights charges.

The Swiss authorities have forwarded a warrant to Interpol in London requesting Pinochet's arrest with a view to his extradition to face charges over the disappearance in 1977 of a Swiss national, Alexis Jaccard, in Buenos Aires.

Another warrant, from Sweden, is also expected. In Paris, judicial authorities are studying requests for Pinochet's extradition there from the relatives of three Franco-Chileans who disappeared during his rule.

And in Britain, a group of Pinochet's alleged victims have lodged a formal bid for him to be tried for torture offences before a British court.

A Spanish court will decide Thursday whether

Spain is competent to pursue Pinochet for the crimes he is accused of.

Meanwhile, Britain Tuesday warned its citizens against travelling to Chile, concerned about heightening tension there.

The Foreign Office warned against all non-essential travel to Chile, and cautioned British nationals there to keep "a low profile".

Late Tuesday, Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Mariano Fernandez said it was important the international community respected Chilean institutions and the way in which the country was coming to terms with its past.

"We have made the transition, we have restored democracy, we have an independent judiciary," he said, repeating Chilean demands for Pinochet to be set free and sent home.

Britain's Home Office has said that it would probably wait to receive all the extradition requests, from Spain and other countries, before deciding whether to give the green light to the courts to consider the move.

Home Secretary Jack Straw has said it is a "legal affair", but hinted that he could consider releasing the general on "compassionate" grounds.

NATO keeps up guard in Kosovo; some refugees return

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — NATO is keeping more than 400 warplanes on alert as Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic continues to withdraw forces from Kosovo and allows tens of thousands of refugees to return home.

A senior NATO general, Klaus Naumann of Germany, said Wednesday that the withdrawal of Serb forces is incomplete but moves so far represent a "considerable step in the direction of fulfilling the demands."

With Yugoslav forces drawing back, the Western military alliance did not set any new deadlines for airstrikes after the previous one expired Tuesday. That bitterly disappointed Kosovo's ethnic Albanian politicians who hoped the Alliance would deliver a devastating air blow to Milosevic's war machine.

"Milosevic has known all along that NATO would not

be bombing, that he would be getting away with what he and his military police have been doing here in Kosovo," Muharrem Hamid of the League of Democratic Kosovar said Wednesday.

"NATO has been frightening itself for too long." But by warning that the threat of attack remains, NATO hopes to guarantee the safety of the ethnic Albanian refugees who are terrified of returning home unless government troops and Serb police are held back.

About 90 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million residents are ethnic Albanian, and most favour independence. Kosovo is a province in Serbia, the main republic in Yugoslavia.

"We know that President Milosevic only moves when he is presented with the credible threat of force," NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana told a news conference after a 21-2-hour meeting of NATO ambass-

sadors in Brussels, Belgium, Tuesday.

"This crisis is far from over," he said. "I urge both sides to take advantage of the opportunity that now exists to move the political process forward."

In an Oct. 12 peace deal, American negotiator Richard Holbrooke demanded that Milosevic cut the number of troops and police in Kosovo to the levels of last February, when Milosevic began his crackdown on the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army.

Hundreds have died in the fighting and 300,000 ethnic Albanians have been forced from their homes.

In an interview Wednesday with Radio Germany, Naumann said Serb police had still not pulled out of one of eight locations they agreed to leave. He said NATO would keep up the pressure to make sure there was no backsliding on Milosevic's part.

ETA to announce end of Basque armed struggle

BILBAO, Spain (AFP) — ETA's political wing Herri Batasuna (HB) dismissed as a government ploy Wednesday a Spanish newspaper report saying the Basque separatist group was poised to end its 30-year armed struggle.

Spain's Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja expressed hope that the claim was true, saying it would be "good news and an extra step in the peace process."

The HB spokesman told AFP that the article in Wednesday's Bilbao-based El Correo Español was a "manipulation created by the conservatives in the Popular Party" that governs Spain.

He emphasised that the report should be granted "no credibility."

The newspaper reported that ETA was preparing a statement to confirm that its current ceasefire, which was first announced on Sept. 16, is now definitive.

However, the HB spokesman said ETA had "sufficiently explained its position" in the ceasefire declaration and in an interview given to the BBC last Saturday in which two ETA members described the ceasefire as solid.

According to El Correo

Español, the underground movement would very shortly announce that it is abandoning its armed struggle against the Spanish state.

The newspaper hinted that the announcement would be a response to demands by Spain's conservative right-wing Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar that ETA make "clear, concrete commitments" to begin a peace process in the Basque country.

It also said the text could be presented in the form of an analysis of last Sunday's regional elections in the Basque country, which saw nationalist parties that favour self-determination remain in control.

It was the first election to be held in the region since ETA announced its unlimited ceasefire saying it had been inspired by the Northern Ireland peace process.

According to the newspaper, ETA had not planned announcing a definitive end to its armed struggle until December.

Two factors have accelerated change within ETA: the Lizarrate Declaration by nationalist parties, which called for self-determination and a political solution to 30 years of armed struggle,

and the success of ETA's political wing, the newly-named Euskal Herriarrok, formerly Herri Batasuna.

The newspaper reported that a majority of ETA militants are ready to abandon their armed struggle.

A smaller sector "but one carrying political weight" would likely demand that self-determination rights be included in any peace process before giving up arms, said the paper.

The Spanish government has welcomed comments made in the BBC interview, the newspaper reported.

In the event of ETA renouncing the use of violence, the government is expected to continue to offer concessions over imprisoned members of the separatist movement, the report added. The transfer of ETA inmates to prisons in the Basque country is a key ETA demand. In total 535 of its activists are currently being detained throughout Spain.

The Lizarrate Declaration, called by ETA's political wing and other moderate nationalist parties, backed a negotiated peace settlement to the Basque conflict, which has killed more than 800 people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Black humour has Romanians splitting their sides

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — In Yugoslavia, a prisoner helps his jailer escape. Convicts line up to wash brains under a tap in China. A gypsy fortune teller in Romania is reading the palm of a man — but he has a hook instead of a hand. Cartoons with a bitter twist from 29 countries where freedoms are curbed — China, Iran and Yugoslavia — are on display at the week-long international black humour festival in Bucharest, home to some of the darkest laughs known to modern man. Cartoonists from the West pale in comparison, trying to be too clever or focusing on the frivolous. Black humour, say aficionados, combines intelligence, wit and a sense of cruelty. Its object is horror. "It's a superior form of optimism. You go beyond (the horror)," said theatre director Alexandru Tocilescu visiting the exhibition of 250 drawings that opened Monday in Bucharest's Bulandra theatre. Horia Patapievic, a Romanian philosopher and head of the nine-member jury which judged the 2,000 paintings and drawings, said: "Either you identify with horror or, in black humour, you put a distance between you and it." Countries such as Iran, Ukraine and Russia have a closer relationship to tragedy, which is why their jokes pack a punch. Western countries haven't known any real horror since the Nazi era, he said. Painted in sombre tones, the winning cartoon created by Bulgarian artist Stefan Despodov depicts a man reading a newspaper being punched by a man in a photograph on the front page. "The cartoon represents the aggression in the press of the ordinary citizen," said Patapievic. "In Bulgaria, like Romania, the language of journalists is violent and cruel."

Doctors perform Japan's first lung transplant from living donor

TOKYO (AP) — Doctors at Okayama University Hospital in western Japan carried out the country's first lung transplant from living donors Wednesday. Organ transplants have been extremely rare in Japan because of a previous law that recognised death only after a patient's heart stopped beating. But at that point organs such as hearts and lungs are usually unsuitable for transplant. A year ago, a new law was passed to recognise brain death. Still, the idea of removing organs still meets tremendous resistance because of a widespread distrust toward doctors as well as cultural superstition about cutting into corpses. Not a single transplant has been performed in Japan from brain-dead donors. In Wednesday's surgery, a 24-year-old woman with an incurable lung disease received half of her 48-year-old mother's left lung and one-third of her 21-year-old sister's right lung. All three, whom the hospital did not identify, were in stable condition after the nine-hour surgery by a team of 20 doctors led by Dr. Nobuyoshi Shimizu, said a hospital official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The lung capacity for the recipient was expected to recover to about 52 per cent, the newspaper Yomiuri said in its Wednesday editions. In the last month before surgery, an artificial respirator was helping her breathe. The donors' lung functions will be reduced by about 20 per cent, but they will be able to lead regular lives, the paper said. A 1996 medical study found that Japanese doctors discovered about 400 patients requiring lung transplants during a two-year period, with as many as 3,000 patients now awaiting lung transplants, the Yomiuri said. Doctors here have performed lung transplants before but never using organs from a living donor. The most common organ transplants from dead donors carried out in Japan are kidney and cornea transplants.

Churches, castles for sale at historic restoration conference

LEIPZIG, Germany (AP) — Small castles, old military barracks, train stations and churches are some of the items for sale this week in Leipzig at an international convention on historic restoration. In total, 555 real estate properties are for sale or rent, according to organisers of the four-day convention that opened Wednesday. The oldest item on offer is a cloister in Saxony-Anhalt state built between 1059 and 1093. The most expensive: an old U.S. military barracks in Berlin, with a price tag of 30 million marks (\$18.75 million). Also for sale is a medical clinic in the town of Beitz that was used by former Communist East German leader Erich Honecker. "There's a lot of interest in this one," said Joergen Kramp, a convention official. Potential buyers include local governments, private organisations and investors with money to spend on restoring a historic property. Lectures at the conference are focused more on the nitty-gritty of restoration itself, with topics such as how to clean old stone walls.

Brussels wants embargo on Portuguese beef

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Commission said Wednesday it wants to ban Portuguese beef exports following a sharp rise in the number of cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow disease" in Portugal. Before it can come into force, the proposed ban must be voted by veterinary experts from the European Union's 15 member states, who are due to meet Friday. They are expected to vote in favour of an embargo, which would be implemented swiftly. Over 50 cases of BSE have been recorded in Portugal since the start of the year. In light of this, Spain, the main importer of Portuguese beef, decided to suspend imports in September.

Lightning kills 'entire football team'

KINSHASA (R) — Lightning killed all 11 members of a football team during a match in the Democratic Republic of the Congo while leaving the opposing team untouched, a Kinshasa newspaper said Wednesday. "Lightning killed at a stroke 11 young people aged between 20 and 35 years during a football match," said a report in the daily L'Avenir. Thirty other people had received burns at the weekend match, said the report which was sourced to the Congo Press Agency. It said: "The athletes from (the home team) Basanga curiously came out of this catastrophe unscathed." The two teams in the match, in eastern Kasai province, were drawing 1-1 when the lightning struck, the paper said. "The exact nature of the lightning has divided the population in this region known for its use of fetiches in football," it added. There was no official confirmation of the report as a rebel war affects much of the east of the country. Heavy storms, since the weekend were reported to have washed away shanty homes in parts of the capital Kinshasa, killing a boy in one district.

New search for Exupery's plane after fisherman finds bracelet

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Salvage crews are searching a new swath of the Mediterranean for the lost plane of Antoine de Saint-Exupery, after a fisherman found his bracelet near Marseille, officials said Wednesday.

The author of "The Little Prince" mysteriously vanished in his warplane while flying near the French coast on July 31, 1944, as the Allies were pushing Nazi troops through Provence.

Repeated searches near Nice failed to turn up Saint-Exupery's Lockheed P-38 Lightning, and theories have ranged from hostile gunfire to mechanical problems to suicide.

But late last month, fisherman Jean-Claude Bianco found the author's silver chain bracelet in near-perfect condition off the coast of Marseille, 190 kms due west, while looking for sole and mullet in

a rocky inlet near the Planier lighthouse.

Entwined in seaweed and sand, the bracelet was also stuck to a piece of fabric believed to be that of Saint-Exupery's flight suit.

"I told myself, you're dreaming, you're dreaming," Jean-Claude Bianco, the fisherman, told the LCI television station. "The sea is vast, and the bracelet was so small."

The bracelet was authenticated, since it carried the name of Saint-Exupery's wife Consuelo and the names Reynald and Hitchcock, publishers of "The Little Prince".

Two days later, on Sept. 28, the marine salvage company Comex launched a two-month search.

The Minibiex and the Remora 2000, two mini-submarines, were combing an area of up to 100 square kilometres around where Bianco found the bracelet, said Comex chief

Henri-Germain Deloze.

"We've done only a small part of the work," Deloze said.

"The depth of the water varies from 600 to 300 metres, and Jean-Claude Bianco couldn't relocate the exact site of discovery." Several pieces of plane wreckage were located by sonar, but so far nothing was found that confirmed they found the P-38, Deloze said.

But Deloze said he was still convinced Saint-Exupery crashed near Marseille after taking off from Bastia-Borgo Airport on the island of Corsica, shortly before 9 a.m. on July 31, 1944.

If Saint-Exupery did crash near Marseille, it appeared unlikely he was hit by German gunfire, since the Germans had been chased out of the region by then, expert Patrick Ehrhardt told the regional daily, La Provence.



The 1998 International Women's Media Foundation's 'Courage in Journalism' award winners pose with their awards at a luncheon Tuesday in Beverly Hills. Shown (left-right) are Elizabeth Neuffer of the Boston Globe, Bianca Rosales of La Republica in Peru, Anna Zarkova of Trud Daily in Bulgaria, Bonnie Angell of Time Magazine, and Christine Anyanwu, a Nigerian journalist who won the award in 1995 but was imprisoned for three years by the Nigerian government (Reuters photo)

Former colonial governor returns to Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong's last colonial governor Chris Patten returned Wednesday for the first time since the July 1997 handover and praised local people for continuing to fight for their rights under Chinese rule.

Patten, who is on a private tour to promote his book "East and West," said Hong Kong still appears to be a free and open society living under the rule of law.

"I think the people of Hong Kong have shown considerable self-confidence in standing up for their freedoms and for common decency and demonstrated their commitment to the rule of law," he told a press conference.

Patten, who infuriated China during his five-year term as British governor for attempting to introduce more democracy, said Beijing deserved credit for keeping out of Hong Kong affairs since the handover.

"But in my own view that is at least largely because of the self-confident way people in Hong Kong have made clear their commitment to living in a free society," he added.

Patten cited the record turnout in May for the first Legislative Council elections

since the handover and the large numbers attending an annual demonstration in June against China's 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

During his four-day stay he is due to hold a private meeting with Hong Kong's Beijing-picked leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-Hwa.

Tung said Wednesday he was looking forward to chatting with Patten Friday "as friends would" about various things.

Patten said he intended to discuss the Asian financial crisis with Tung and discuss ways in which Europe could better support the region. But he refused to comment on his successor's performance or criticise the current government's handling of the economy.

"There is an old saying of when you leave the bridge, you do not spit on the deck and I certainly do not intend to comment on or evaluate the chief executive's performance," he said.

Tung's popularity has recently slumped in opinion polls and he has been under fire for being out of touch with the man in the street.

The former governor said many of the problems facing Hong Kong's economy were

largely out of the government's control and were due to the wider regional crisis.

"Hong Kong has been hit by the backlash of the Asian financial crisis and one of the things I will be arguing is that a lot of the things that have caused problems elsewhere are non-existent in Hong Kong," he said.

Patten is also to meet leading pro-democracy legislators at a private dinner hosted by a local businessman but is not expected to meet any of the territory's pro-Beijing legislators.

He said his one major regret as the last colonial governor was not to have pushed for earlier democratic elections.

The debate on whether to introduce more democracy provoked uproar in Beijing and was strongly opposed by some elements of the local business community who feared the row would harm business ties on the mainland.

Patten's new book, which is strongly critical of the Chinese leadership, has further provoked Beijing's ire. He also accuses Western governments of pandering to China in the hope of boosting trade ties at the expense of human rights and democracy.

But on his return to Hong Kong Patten was more diplomatic. He refused to condemn recent visits to China by Western leaders including British Prime Minister Tony Blair, which focused on trade.

"There is an old tradition, more often breached than observed, that you should not criticise your prime minister while overseas and I am going to stick to that convention," Patten said he was greatly looking forward to visiting old friends and favourite places during his trip to Hong Kong.

He has a packed book signing and interview schedule, including a session in the popular Harry Ramsden's fish and chip restaurant. The former governor — nicknamed "Fatty Patten" here — was a regular customer.

But he said he would not be upset if crowds of Hong Kong people failed to turn out to wish him well.

"In a free society public officials return to normality with splendid crispness and expedition," he said, telling how he had a struggle for a taxi at London's Heathrow airport after returning from the pomp of the handover.

Disgruntled Chinese pilot hijacks his own plane

TAIPEI (AFP) — The captain of a Chinese passenger jet hijacked his own plane with 104 people on board and flew it to Taiwan Wednesday in a protest against the mainland's aviation authorities, officials here said.

Yuan Bin, pilot of the Air China Boeing 737, was immediately detained by police here after the aircraft carrying 95 passengers and nine crew landed at Taipei's Chiang Kai-Shek (CKS) International Airport.

Police also took away the captain's wife Xu Mei who was also on the plane. All on board were reported to be safe.

"Preliminary investigation by prosecutors showed that Yuan flew to Taiwan because he was unhappy with the payment, boarding arrangements and the airline's system there," Taiwan's Interior Minister Huang Chu-Wen said.

"No political motives were behind the hijacking," he added.

Flight CA905 was heading from Beijing to Kunming in southern China en route to Yangon in Myanmar when it veered off its flight path

towards Taiwan.

Taiwan's air force dispatched four fighters to escort the plane after being informed around 10:20 a.m. (0220 GMT), military spokesman Kung Fan-Ting said. The plane landed around 11:30 a.m.

Yuan asked airport authorities here to "treat the passengers well," reports here said.

As police interrogated Yuan and his wife, prosecutors and airport security staff questioned passengers including 20 foreigners and other crew members including three pilots. Scores of armed police surrounded the plane.

The plane was flown back by another pilot Wen Fei with the assistance of two co-pilots who were also assigned on the flight, said Chang Kuo-Cheng, deputy director of Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration.

"The hijacked plane took off from Taiwan at 18:03 (1003 GMT) and will arrive around 19:25 (1125 GMT) in Xiamen," an official from China's Xiamen airport said by telephone.

"We are still making preparations for the landing, but the most likely scenario is

that the plane will land here and then continue its flight to Kunming as that is where it was originally going," he added.

As Taiwan and China do not have direct aviation links, the aircraft was forced to fly south through Hong Kong airspace en route to Xiamen, which is on the east coast of China near to Taiwan.

China had asked for the immediate return of the aircraft and all those onboard including the captain, but neither the captain nor his wife were aboard when it left.

The three-point demand issued by the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) was also the first confirmation from Beijing the aircraft was hijacked by its pilot and his wife.

"In order to solve this morning's hijacking, we require a guarantee of the safety of the passengers and the plane, the necessary assistance for the plane's smooth return and the repatriation of the hijackers," ARATS said in a statement carried by Xinhua.

"The plane's pilot and his

wife have been initially identified as the hijackers," it added.

"The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) hope the Taiwan authorities will allow the hijacked aircraft with passengers to return to the mainland safely as soon as possible," a spokeswoman for CAAC told AFP.

"We also request the repatriation of the hijacker," she said.

Taiwan Premier Vincent Siew condemned the hijacking, the first involving a mainland aeroplane in four years, saying it would be handled according to Taiwanese laws.

"Hijackings are internationally condemned and we have developed a system for handling the situation," Siew said. "We will follow the usual practice... no matter who the hijackers are, they will face our laws."

During a spate of hijackings between April 1993 and December 1994, 12 mainland passenger aircraft involving 16 hijackers were forced to fly to Taiwan.

Taiwan returned the planes but kept the hijackers for trial.

Ex-POW says N. Koreans selling blood for food

SEOUL (R) — A former South Korean prisoner of war who recently escaped from famine-hit North Korea said a growing number of people there were trying to sell their blood to smugglers to survive, Seoul's defence ministry said Wednesday.

A ministry statement quoted former prisoner Chang Mu-Hwan as saying the numbers of smugglers seeking blood and those voluntarily selling it were increasing despite North Korea's attempts to ban

such activities.

No other details were given.

Chang also said nine million North Koreans were rumoured to have died of starvation last year, mostly in industrial areas where vegetation is scarce.

North Korea has been hit in recent years by flooding which has exacerbated problems in the country's creaking Stalinist agricultural system, leaving the country severely short of food.

Chang, 72, escaped and

returned to his family in September after being forced to work in coal mines for 45 years at a prisoner of war camp.

South Korea's defence ministry had listed Chang as killed during the 1950-53 Korean war.

The ministry statement quoted Chang as saying high school graduates in North Korea could now choose between completing their obligatory military service or working in coal mines for 10 years before going on to study at

a university of their choice.

It also said Chang decided to escape after hearing through smugglers at the Chinese-North Korean border that his wife and children were still alive in the South.

South Korea's defence ministry has said some 20,000 South Korean soldiers were missing during the Korean War. The war ended in a truce rather than a permanent peace, leaving both Koreas still technically at war.

TRC criticism of de Klerk to be excised from final report

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — South Africa's truth commission has removed criticism of ex-President F.W. de Klerk from its final report, its head Desmond Tutu said Wednesday, amid claims that the text could implicate de Klerk in state-sponsored terrorism.

"We have instructed our printers to excise the contemplated finding on de Klerk from the copy of the report that will be handed to the President (Nelson Mandela) tomorrow," a statement by Tutu, chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said.

The Cape High Court was due later Wednesday to hear an application by de Klerk to have sections of the final report — likely to have implicated apartheid's last president in the cover-up of terrorism by agents of the state — withheld.

Tutu said the TRC would, on the advice of its lawyers, reluc-

tantly seek a postponement of the case when it came before court later Wednesday.

"It is with very great reluctance indeed that I have agreed to request a postponement and to the resultant decision not to finalise our finding in relation to de Klerk at this stage," Tutu's statement said.

"Senior counsel has advised us that if they are to present our defence adequately to the court, they need time to prepare properly for the case, bearing in mind that the documents filed exceed 2,500 pages."

"We have therefore instructed our lawyers to approach the court later this afternoon to ask for a postponement of the matter for some weeks, if possible by agreement with de Klerk's lawyers."

According to the Cape Times newspaper Wednesday, de Klerk will say in his submission to the court that the findings in the report were the result of a

vendetta against him by the TRC.

He knew of "no fact or consideration which would justify any of the intended findings against me."

Press reports said the report would finger him as "an accessory after the fact" to the 1980s bombings of the offices of two anti-apartheid organisations.

The 3,000-page report is expected to say that de Klerk, 64, did not order the bombings but knew about the involvement of then law and order Minister Adriaan Vlok and then police commissioner Johan van der Merwe in the blasts.

By failing to report this to the police, de Klerk apparently became an accessory.

De Klerk has denied any involvement in assassinations, torture and other abuses committed by the previous government's security forces and has not applied to the TRC for amnesty for any apartheid-era

crimes.

He was implicated in knowing about the bombings of the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) during an amnesty application by Vlok, 60, for the blasts.

De Klerk said he was provided with this information only towards the end of his presidency.

"I cannot conceivably be held morally accountable for matters which were brought to my attention long after they occurred," he said in his court submission.

In his statement, Tutu said he was deeply upset at the having to excise material relating to de Klerk. "It upsets me deeply. We have been scrupulously fair to Mr. de Klerk and we reject the contention that we have been engaged in a vendetta against him."

First German nuclear shut-downs by 2002

BONN (AFP) — Germany's new environment minister, Green party member Juergen Trittin, said the nation's first nuclear power station closures would take place before 2002, it was reported Wednesday.

In an interview to appear in Thursday's edition of the weekly magazine Die Woche, Trittin reiterated the new Social Democrat (SPD) and Greens government's commitment to gradually

abandoning nuclear power. "We want to proceed if possible by consensus, which is easier than by argument," said Trittin.

He added that the new government hopes to discuss a "new concept of energy" with energy companies, which could include renovating power stations.

The SPD and the Greens have decided on a year-long grace period during which they will work out a phasing-

out timetable with energy companies.

Three-quarters of environmentalist activists in Germany think the timetable to abandon nuclear power could be a point of contention between the two coalition members, a survey to be published in Die Woche showed.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder warned his Greens allies Monday not to launch headlong into phasing out

nuclear power without due reflection nor to antagonise the energy companies.

The new government will amend a federal law that promotes nuclear power to mandate its phase-out.

The agreement reached by the SPD and the Greens has put pressure on other European states, such as France where around 80 percent of energy comes from nuclear power, to make similar moves.

SALE ENDS SATURDAY

FASTLINK'S HALF PRICE SALE

Our Amazing Package Includes:

Motorola d160 *	JD 50.000
Connection Fee	JD 35.000
Subscription (first month only)	JD 10.500
Caller I.D. (first month only)	JD 5.000
Call Waiting (first month only)	JD 1.000
Detailed Billing (first month only)	JD 1.000

That's a Savings of JD 131!

Don't miss out on Fastlink's 50% Blow Out Sale, from October 6th - 31st, and get 50% off a Motorola d160 mobile phone, connection fee, first month's subscription, caller I.D., call waiting and detailed billing. This offer is also valid on selected phones and accessories, only from Fastlink.

For more information call us at:
Amman: 586 3750, Tayebat Village: 477 0770, Aqaba: 03 202 2557,
Irbid: 02 251 691, or dial 111 on your mobile.

Authorized Dealers:
Mabco: 464 7866, Al Raed Al Ordny: 580 2924, Sawalha: 551 8897, Alcatel: 552 0180,
Al Aryan: 551 9553, Mobile World: 552 1411, TeleLink: 586 1055, Telecom: 560 5535,
Samsung (GSM): 462 1599, Comtech (Irbid): 02 270061, Al-Habes (Tallia): 03 343710.

Please Note: A JD 100 deposit is required. Prices subject to 10% government sales tax. Offer not applicable to Saudi and Corporate subscriptions. Jordanian nationals must present proof of their national identity number. Non-residents must present proof of their residency.
*Motorola d160 available separately at JD 129.



Fastlink
Keep Close

Jordan Times

An independent Arab print daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975
 جريدة الأردن اليومية مستقلة صحفية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors
 Abdel Salam Tarawneh

Vice Chairman & Director General
 Mohammad Amad

Executive Editor
 Abdullah Hasanat

Responsible Editor
 Elia Nasrallah

Editorial and Advertising offices
 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Facsimile: Editorial: 5696183, Advertising: 5693337

E-mail: jtimes@go.com.jo

Web Site: <http://www.access2arabia.com/jordantimes/>

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Active involvement in Jerusalem

THE DECISION by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to boycott next month's elections for the mayor of Jerusalem is understandable, but does not come without cost. Faisal Hussein, the PNA's official on Jerusalem, fears that the participation of the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem in the elections would be tantamount to accepting the Israeli annexation of Arab Jerusalem. The post of mayor, for which there could be several contenders, is obviously for the entire city, east and west. Arah voting in the elections could indeed mean that the Holy City is united under one administration and authority, so far Israeli.

There are over 180,000 Palestinians who are legal residents of Jerusalem. No less than 124,000 are registered voters. The Palestinian vote represents more than one-third of the city's total electorate. Given the intentions and designs of Israel for Jerusalem, staying outside the city council only means that Israel will continue to plan and design the city future in a manner that will ultimately lead to its total Judaisation.

The participation of Palestinians in the voting process does not ipso facto prejudice the future of the city or undermine de jure its final status. The Palestinians can nominate their own candidates and vote for them. What the Arah could have done under the circumstances is to nominate a candidate for the seat of the city's mayor although his or her chances of winning would be slim. This way the Arah protest vote would take a positive shape and form. And this way, the Palestinians would be able to exercise some control over the administration of the city by electing some members to the city municipal council.

The methods and tools for regaining some Arah control over Jerusalem and its affairs, be they temporal or otherwise, are indeed plentiful. Negative involvement in the running of the city may not be the best option under the circumstances.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek commented on the recent campaign launched by major industrial countries against the International Monetary Fund. The United States and other industrial countries own most of the IMF shares, hence they can steer its policies in accordance with their interests, said Fanek. The IMF's basic policy to deal with any economic slowdown is the introduction of austerity measures. Fanek said, and it is natural that people will not accept austerity measures after years of false wealth based on borrowing, which explain complaints from Third World countries. However, when the fund was requested to assist the Asian tigers in their economic crisis, and, as usual, called for austerity measures, the industrial countries were not pleased, because it would mean a decrease in exports to these countries, claimed Fanek, who had become major consumers of Western goods. Austerity measures applied to the Asian tigers would, therefore, have very negative repercussions on the economies of some major Western powers, Fanek concluded, hence criticism of the IMF.

Al Dustour's editorial commented on the burial of the remains of four Jordanian soldiers, killed in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The paper said the ceremony, which took place in Arab east Jerusalem, was a good occasion for residents of the Holy City to remember the days of brave fighting by the Arabs against the Israelis in the neighbourhoods and streets of Jerusalem. The participation of the Palestinians in the burial shows clearly the eternal strong bonds between the two nations who have experienced so much together, said Al Dustour. It also shows the appreciation of the Palestinians for the four soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Palestine and its people, added the paper. Jordan, under the Hashemite leadership, is always keen to guard the interests of Palestinians and fight for them whenever necessary, added the Arabic daily.

View from Academia

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The Internet horizontally and vertically

THE INTERNET has many virtues, naturally. But it also, naturally again, has many vices. A virtue may be a vice in disguise, and a vice may also be a virtue. The wealth of information, often cited as one of the Internet's strongest benefits to man, is a good example of such compelling paradox.

On the one hand, the Internet has opened up for us infinite possibilities in terms of both accessibility and wealth of information. You may no longer (unless you wish to) have to walk or drive to get the morning paper, subscribe to international magazines and wait until they arrive to your post office box, go to libraries and look through defunct card catalogues or the reference room, etc. Turn on your computer, and browse. It is as simple as that — assuming, of course, that you, or the organisation you work for, have access to the Internet.

There is a lot you can know about: news, events, concepts, definitions, facts, opinions, etc. You want to know what "cloning" is? Easy. You want to find out what lateral thinking is all about? Easy, again. There is so much, both old and new, that one can find. At one level, the Internet is a collection of both small and huge encyclopaedias, bibliographies, biographies, dictionaries, etc. It is much like a huge reference room in a library, in which you are bound to find something about everything. The good news at this level is that this huge encyclopaedia (the Internet) keeps you up-to-date because it is itself up-to-date. Information gets into it faster than it gets into regular books or magazines.

What I am saying here is that the Internet is excellent horizontally. The quantity of information one can have access to is immense. Is this important? Definitely. In today's world, horizontal knowledge is a must; quantitative learning is essential. We live in a world where one is

expected to know about a lot of things — much more so than one was expected to know, say, a couple of decades ago.

If the globe as a small village is no longer a figure of speech (and it no longer is), one is then expected to know about this village as much as one can. The contrast between one's sense of village a couple of decades ago (or country or region) is remarkably different from one's sense of it now. Anything and everything that happens anywhere in this small globe is of concern to anyone and everyone.

Take also another recent development: let's call it interdisciplinaryity. There was a time (not long ago) when it was sufficient for a person to know only about his/her so-called field of specialisation or discipline. I am an expert in physics, biology, history or English literature, there is nothing wrong with my knowledge being confined to this or that narrow discipline. Such position seems to be no longer acceptable. Disciplines cut across. What happens in one, affects the other. Post-modernism as a philosophy or phenomenon, for instance, is as much a concern for the philosopher as for the historian, theologian, physicist, architect, engineer, etc. Furthermore, there is a great need for the historian to know about the latest in sociology, anthropology, education, physics, astronomy, etc. The borders defining or separating disciplines, in other words, have been fast eroding and disappearing. At this level, the Internet does a lot of good.

But horizontal, quantitative learning has its own negative implications. The Internet, in other words, often tells us a lot about something but does not give us the thing itself. Many of my students who plan to do serious research, for example, find a lot about books (titles, places of publication, critical reviews, summaries) but

not the books themselves.

Vertically, the Internet does not (yet) seem to take us far. This is certainly a problem for people who want to conduct a serious study of a certain subject or concept. Yes, I find a lot about cloning, lateral thinking, etc., but not enough to enable me to write a serious article or book about it. It does tell me where to find the books, and how much to pay to get these books. But the content of these books is not available. A pupil in elementary or even secondary school may be able to write a report to his/her teacher about any subject. But a serious university student will not find enough to write a paper for a class.

More importantly, the wider one's knowledge gets, the thinner it becomes (or so it seems). There is a great deal horizontally, but there is much less vertically. For parents, educators, and the concerned children and students themselves, this is somewhat worrisome. Children and students may get the false impression (as indeed many of them do) that what the Internet offers about a subject is all that needs to be known. This could be dangerous. As Alexander Pope has rightly put it: "A little learning is a dangerous thing." The education the Internet offers is wide but thin. Students, while knowing a lot about things, may know little about something, and thus start simplifying issues and develop superficial modes of thinking and analysis. And superficial opinions. This is a problem.

To guard against this vice of the Internet in the short run, we may have to do a lot of explaining to our students and children (especially those who are enthusiastic or over-enthusiastic), that the Internet does not contain knowledge in a nutshell. In the long run, the Internet itself has to expand itself vertically.

Jerusalem Life

Daoud Kuttab

Wye there must be comprehensive peace

THE WYE Plantation Memorandum, which was signed at an internationally publicised ceremony, is not a peace agreement. It doesn't contain any major new elements. It is simply a confirmation by the parties to implement what had been agreed to and signed between Israel and the Palestinians.

Nevertheless, the Wye Memorandum could be very important to Middle East peace. It marks, for the first time, an unambiguous embrace by Israel's right-wing Likud Party — including Ariel Sharon — of the Oslo peace process which was begun by the late Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

For Palestinians this agreement couldn't have come at a better time. The level of frustration, and scepticism had reached dangerous proportions.

The procrastination of Benjamin Netanyahu, the settlement policy of the present Israeli government and the apparent inability of the U.S. sponsor to do anything about it, had left a bitter feeling with Palestinians. Ever since the razor-thin victory of Netanyahu, Palestinians have witnessed more land confiscation, violent Israeli repression, travel restrictions, house demolitions and no movement in the peace process. Since his elections, Israel's prime minister had accepted the Oslo Accords, but his actions (or inactions) since his election, left the world sceptical of his motives. Many in Palestine and the Arab World began to doubt whether the Israeli government would ever implement the Oslo Accords. Many

still doubt that what has been agreed upon near Maryland's Wye River will be implemented. Only the persistent follow-up by the United States at the highest level will ensure that the Wye Agreement will be carried out in all its details.

To cement the message of peace, Palestinians of all walks of life must see and feel the change: the right of Palestinians to be free and independent; to move around in their own country; to travel in and out of their homeland and to pursue economic prosperity. These should not be obtained as a result of the charity of the Israelis. It must be clear in word and deed that such basic rights are inalienable rights and are honoured. Palestinians have prayed for the day that their lives is no longer be used as a political bargaining chip. The Wye Plantation Memorandum should put an end to this dark chapter of holding the people of the region hostage for the political ambitions of power hungry politicians.

On the other hand, Palestinians are concerned about the implications of some of the security arrangements hammered out between the Palestinian leadership, the Israeli security and the American Central Intelligence Agency. Human rights organisations are afraid that the Palestinian National Authority will use this agreement and the international support it has received to crack down on the Palestinian opposition. The fear is that the crackdown will not be limited to militant Islam, but will also include political Islam and any other national

opposition within the Palestinian arena. Not many hours after the agreement was signed, the Palestinian security forces arrested 11 journalists working for the Palestinian and the foreign press while interviewing the leader of the Hamas movement.

The implementation of the Wye Agreement will certainly not solve the Palestinian problem. It could be an important step in this direction if the agreement reflects a sea change in the politics of the Israeli government towards Palestinians. To create the proper atmosphere for talks that will deal with sensitive issues like Jerusalem, refugees, the status of settlements and borders, a lot of changes are needed. If the policies of expansion, settlement and the denial of Palestinian rights have ended, then the beginning of permanent status talks would have a chance. Otherwise, this short-term reprieve would contribute very little to the long-awaited peace in the Middle East.

While peace with Palestinians is crucial to reversing the trend of instability, Israel needs to find the way of making peace with all the Arabs. King Hussein is right in his pursuit of a comprehensive peace.

Such a peace must start with the recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination including their rights to live in peace and tranquility in their own state. It also must include the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanese and Syrian territory.



Developing World

Flad al'Khour

Euro will make big splash in the Med

THE SINGLE European currency is coming soon, and I have no doubt that it will make a major contribution to deepening the relationship between the eleven members of the euro zone (the European Union countries minus Denmark, Greece, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and the twelve Mediterranean countries of the Barcelona process, including Jordan. The EU is the most important economic and financial partner of most Mediterranean economies, accounting for half of the region's external trade in goods and services. It is in addition a major source of service revenue for Med countries — sending them more than forty per cent of their tourists — and also accounts for most of the workers' remittances and foreign direct investments transferred to Mediterranean economies each year. The respective figures for Jordan in all of these categories is lower, though still important, and in my opinion set to become even more so with the advent of the euro. For a start, the use of the euro as a currency of reference for the quotation of commodity prices will start to become significant for Jordan and the rest of the region over the coming years. Most commodities in the Med region and much of the rest of the world have been quoted in dollars for the past five decades or so. (For example, the U.S. currency is particularly widely used in the trade of Mediterranean economies with

the smaller EU countries.) In recent years, the importance of the EU in trade in the Med region has been substantially greater than the share of the EU currencies with respect to invoicing. In Israel, for instance, although about half of total imports originate from the EU, more than seventy per cent of import payments are denominated in dollars. Over the longer term, the euro could partially replace the dollar in this function. In particular, the introduction of the euro will affect trade invoicing between Mediterranean countries and the EU, and invoicing in dollars — already on a downward trend worldwide since the early 1980s, this is expected to decline further. At the same time, the euro could also play an increasing role in intra-Med trade as well as in business between the Mediterranean region and non-EU countries.

Another striking feature commonly seen in Mediterranean countries is the mismatch that exists between their pattern of trade and the denomination of their external financial liabilities. While the largest share of Med countries' trade is with the EU, most financial liabilities are denominated in dollars.

Mediterranean countries have borrowed more in dollars owing to a large extent to the characteristics of European bond markets, which are segmented, smaller, less liquid, and more expensive than the larger U.S. ones. However, the introduction of the euro

will bring about major changes in the European financial system, and this will affect the future external borrowing of Mediterranean countries. EU markets will become even further integrated with the elimination of intra-European currency risk, leading to smaller transaction costs and interest spreads, as well as increased supply of and demand for financial assets in euros. European financial markets will thus become more attractive to portfolio investors, offering lower costs of borrowing, increased flexibility and more opportunities. This will certainly benefit Mediterranean countries.

The advent of the euro is also expected to have an effect on the structure of foreign exchange reserves of Med economies. The dollar in recent years has constituted around two-thirds of total official foreign exchange holdings in the world, with only about a fifth being denominated in EU currencies. The introduction of the euro will provide an opportunity to re-align foreign exchange reserves in light of trade flows, the currency of payments transactions, and exchange arrangements. Accordingly, the share of the euro in the foreign exchange reserves of Mediterranean countries is expected to become significant over the next decade.

Meanwhile, the dollar is still king in the Arab countries, particularly in the Mashreq. (French francs and German marks are, how-

ever, close behind) For example, while the EU accounted for more than half of Egypt's exports over the past few years, EU currencies combined represented less than ten per cent of total Egyptian foreign exchange receipts from sales of goods abroad. Conversely, more than ninety per cent of Egypt's recent export income was in dollars while the U.S. economy is not a major destination for Egyptian exports. However, many observers feel that Mediterranean countries are expected to significantly increase their demand for euros relative to the current appetite for EU currencies. Such a shift could cover around twenty to thirty per cent of total trade, in the opinion of Jean-Pierre Chaffour and Loukas Stemitsiotis of the European Commission, in a recent paper on "The Impact of the Euro on Mediterranean Partner Countries." No slouches, Jordanians are already gearing up for the euro. Amman bankers tell us that they will be handling the new currency as of its launch at the beginning of next year, and a number of foreign banks have run well attended seminars on the subject here recently. The general public will take a bit longer to catch on, but I have no doubt that a Jordanian born on the same day as the euro (1 January 1999) will grow up to be just as familiar with it as his parents were with the dollar.

Society on the move

Of state visits, ambassadors and cha-cha-cha

THE STATE visit to the Kingdom of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Roman Herzog, who was elected in May 1994, will arrive accompanied by his wife Christiane and a large delegation of officials and journalists. The visit to Jordan is Herzog's first. The delegation will arrive from the West Bank and Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Princess Sarvath will host them at a state banquet. The Herzogs, in turn, will have a reception in honour of Their Royal Highnesses the following evening. On the tentative agenda is a trip to Irbid to visit the Jordan University of Science and Technology, as well as the usual meetings with senior officials. Herzog obtained a doctorate in law in Munich and is a professor of public law and politics as well as political science. Since 1972 he has been a full member of the Synod of the Protestant Church of Germany. Early in his political career he served as minister of education, cultural affairs and sport in the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg. Prior to his election as federal president Herzog served as president of the Federal Constitutional Court.

Amman, Umar says it is very difficult not to achieve anything positive in Jordan considering all the assistance, openness and sincerity with which he was met. The ambassador, who has been ousted from the recent stand-off between Turkey and Syria, will be succeeded by Tuncer Toprak, who has served as Turkey's ambassador to Finland. Ambassador Umar and his wife Tulin will have a reception this evening at The Dunes Club to celebrate their country's national day and to say good-bye to associates and friends they met in Jordan.



President Roman Herzog

President of the Jordan Medical Association.

HEADING HOME: Also ending a tenure as ambassador in Amman, but on an uncommonly long one, is Iraqi Ambassador Nouri Ismail Al Weiss. Earlier this summer Weiss was expected to complete his tour of duty, but a decision by his foreign ministry postponed his departure until this fall. Weiss took office in August 1984, making him the longest current serving ambassador in Amman. He has not, however, held the traditional role of "dean" of the diplomatic corps. Weiss, a native of the city of Tikrit, will leave Amman for Baghdad in early November for a post at the foreign ministry. As of yet his successor has not been officially named.

NOTICE TO ARTISTS: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation is inviting artists worldwide to design a logo to mark the International Year for the Culture of Peace in the year 2000. The main objectives of the International Year for the Culture of Peace are to strengthen respect for cultural diversity and to promote tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, dialogue and reconciliation. According to UNESCO, an overall communication strategy aimed at mobilising public opinion in that peaceful

direction is currently being put in place. A key element of that strategy is an official logo for the International Year of the Culture of Peace. The logo should reflect the aim of the year, especially the values of non-violence, tolerance and solidarity. Graphic designers and artists around the globe are welcome to submit entries. Proposals to UNESCO are made on a non-profit, voluntary basis, and UNESCO would hold all rights to the use of the chosen logo. The designer of the winning logo will be invited to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris for the official launch. Air fares and expenses for the successful designer will be borne by UNESCO. Designers and artists, whether professional or amateur and irrespective of age, can forward entries to the International Year for the Culture of Peace Secretariat, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenay, 75700, Paris, France. The closing date is Nov. 30, 1998. Entries are non-refundable and UNESCO's decision as to the winning logo will be final.

should not surprise anyone that the waltz is on the schedule. Rio and Jane-Ann have taught in several locations, but wanted to set up their own studio with a sprung wooden floor, which took three tries to get right. The couple plan to bring teachers from abroad to conduct workshops for all types of dance. Some teachers are already lined up and should start their programmes in about six months. Rio is the Middle Eastern correspondent for Salsaweb Magazine (look for his latest article featuring Jordan on www.salsaweb.com/cityguides/ammanjordan.htm). Jane-Ann has been teaching modern jazz, hip dance and mime for 20 years, and currently teaches at the International Community School as well as the Amman Baccalaureate School where she is choreographing the school's fantasy adult version of Beauty and the Beast to open in January 1999.

POPULAR DEMAND: It appears that the Grumpy Gourmet magazine has raised such high demand that its publishers have decided to print more copies and make the dining guide available to a larger public. The first few editions were scattered about in selected hotels and other hospitality establishments and could be picked up or no charge by those quick enough to spot and pluck one. Advertisements paid the costs involved in the operation of producing the guide. Hiking the number of prints has forced "Grumpy" to charge a nominal price of JD 1.5 per publication. The Grumpy Gourmet is now available at the Inter-Continental Hotel Bookshop, Marriott Hotel Gift Shop, Books@Café, Body Design Gym, and Al Waddees Coffee Shop. And that's not all: Grumpy plans to launch a website in two weeks on the Internet.

— Jennifer Hamareh

TOO SOON? Coincidentally the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, being celebrated in Amman tonight, comes at the same time as the rather sudden end of the tour of duty of Ambassador Ahmet Sühü Umar. The quite candid, young ambassador will return to Ankara as his foreign ministry. The post he is to take up has not yet been decided. Of his admittedly short three-year tenure in

ALL EYES: Former Mayor of Amman Dr. Mamdouh Abudhi has returned to his original profession. A graduate of England in ophthalmology, Abudhi has re-opened his private practice, specialising in eye surgery, in Amman's First Circle near Mulhas Hospital. His career in public service included a tenure as minister of health. He was also

Science and Technology

So this is what aliens really look like

It's life, Jim — but not where we thought we'd find it.

By Robin McKie

FORGET MARS. Ignore Venus. Scientists believe extra-terrestrial life is most likely to be found on a remote, ice-covered moon of Jupiter — and might look something like this. Latest findings from the giant £1.5 billion U.S. space probe Galileo have provided powerful new evidence that underneath the icy surface of the Jovian moon Europa, lies an ocean warmed by thermal vents. Many scientists now think these waters may swarm with micro-organisms or even relatively advanced life forms.

Researchers reported last week that Europa's sister moon, Callisto, also appears to have an ocean. Disturbances in Jupiter's magnetic field indicate that both moons, and possibly a third moon, Ganymede, have salty, liquid-water oceans.

Suddenly one of the solar system's remotest backwaters seems ripe with possibilities. "In the last couple of months many scientists have changed their minds about finding primitive life on Mars, and have begun to favour Europa as our best prospect instead," said Dr. Michele Dougherty of Imperial College, London.

Dr. Fritz Neubauer of Köln University agreed: "One of the conditions which must be fulfilled for the origin of life (the presence of water) is fulfilled on these moons."

The idea that habitable worlds could exist so far from the sun would once have been scorned by researchers. Earth's nearest planetary neighbours, Mars and Venus, were considered to be far better, warmer prospects — until robot spacecraft landed there.

These probes showed that Mars was too small to retain air or water while Venus suffered an extreme greenhouse effect that turned it into an acid-drenched inferno. Water — the prime ingredient of life — was conspicuously absent, though some researchers still hope some may be trapped below Mars' surface where it could support primitive, bacteria-like life.

Space engineers turned their craft to more distant parts of the solar system, expecting to find only cold, desolate moons and planets. Instead they uncovered a host of strange

worlds.

"What we did not anticipate was that the powerful gravitational fields of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune would generate such intense stresses on their moons," said Open University geologist Dr. David Rothery. "These stresses cause immense internal heating, turning these moons into very exotic places."

For example, on Io, one of Jupiter's four main moons, this heating produces volcanoes that coarsely pour sulphur plumes across its surface, turning it a vivid yellow. And the impact of this stress heating on Europa is even more intriguing.

Scientists can tell from the spectrum of sunlight reflected from Europa that it is covered in ice. "But it is also very young ice," added Rothery. "We can see where ice floes have formed and where water appears to have welled up between the cracks very recently."

These observations indicate that the underside of Europa's icepacks are lapped by a warm ocean that is heated by deep, underwater vents which are, in turn, created by Jupiter's huge gravitational field. "The crucial point is that a growing number of scientists now believe that life on Earth first evolved round similar under-sea vents," said Rothery. "That is another reason why more and more of us believe Europa is the best hope for finding extra-terrestrial life in the solar system."

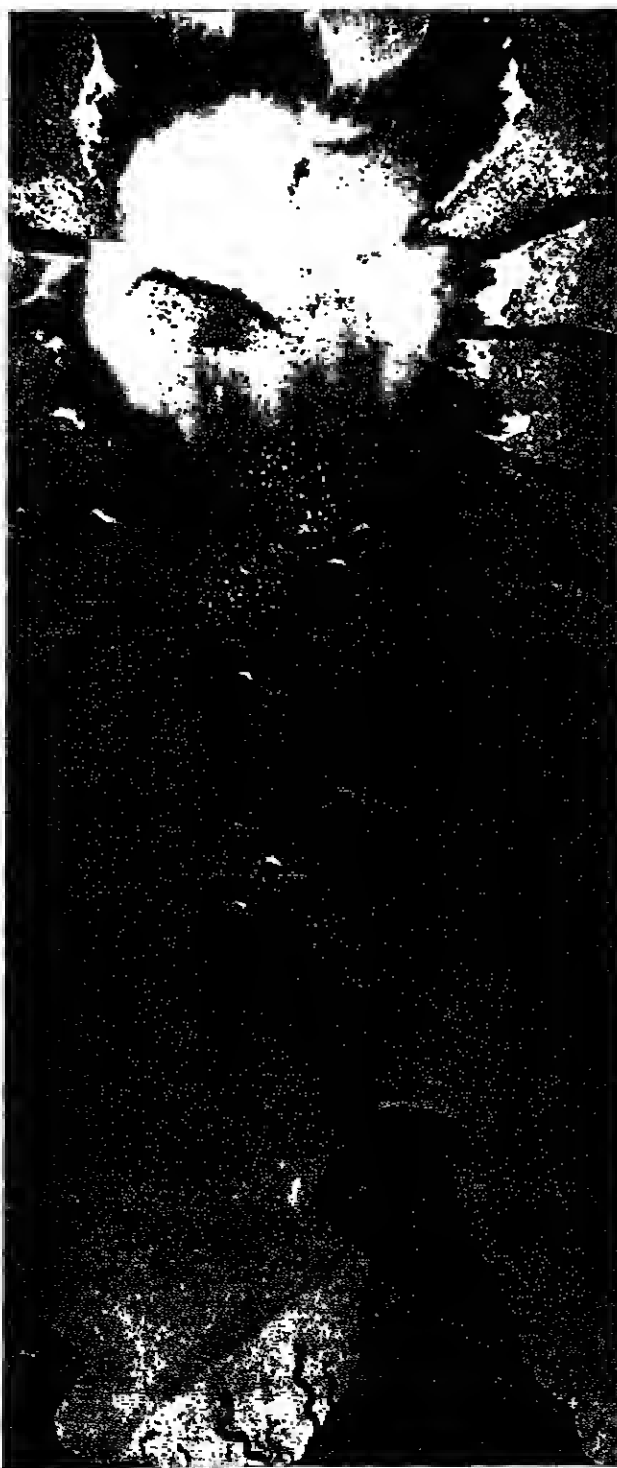
This enthusiasm is shared by NASA, which has announced that it intends to follow up Galileo with a mission dedicated solely to the exploration of Europa. The craft, Europa Orbiter, will be launched in 2003 and should reach its destination three years later.

Once in orbit round Europa, the probe will use powerful radar scanners to survey the moon's ice crust, which is believed to be between 3,000 and 6,000 feet thick. The aim is to pinpoint its thinnest, weakest sections. These areas would then be tar-

geted for a final probe which would land on Europa and drop a miniature robot submersible into its ocean in order to seek out life.

Already NASA has begun trials in the Antarctic with a robot probe that can drill through ice fields so that it can insert instrument packs into the water below. In this way, Europa would also reveal its startling secrets, say scientists. As Dr. Bruce Jakosky, a planetary scientist at the University of Colorado, told the San Jose Mercury News last week: "We are the first generation in history with any real chance of discovering alien life forms."

— The Observer



Life elsewhere — an artists impression

Zero gravity holds scent of money

THE FIRST attempt to create a perfume in space will begin on Thursday when the space shuttle blasts into orbit from Cape Canaveral, writes Sean Hargrave.

Researchers believe that in zero-gravity conditions molecules inside a plant will align themselves differently and create oils that could not be formed on Earth. The scientists are not sure whether the resulting aroma will be different from that found on the ground but they want to find out.

According to Norman Draeger of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is behind the project, space is being seen as the new frontier for perfume discovery. "Companies are always looking for new natural sources of flavours and fragrances that customers haven't experienced before," he says.

"They employ people to scout exotic places on earth, such as Africa and South America, to identify pleasant tastes and smells from plants. The latest exotic place just

happens to be space."

The research is sponsored by International Flavours and Fragrances (IFF) of New York. It hopes to gain a lead over its competitors by finding smells and flavourings that are new because ingredients in perfume and food have always been grown under the force of gravity.

If the research is successful, exotic new fragrances made in space could one day feature in the perfumes, soaps, deodorants, detergents and foods made by the companies that IFF supplies.

During the shuttle's mission a miniature rose plant will be grown in an enclosed "astroculture". This is sealed off from the rest of the craft and recreates the lighting, feeding and watering conditions the plant requires to bloom. A tiny video camera allows the plant specialist on the shuttle, and scientists on the ground, to monitor the plant as it blooms.

Before the shuttle lands, a crew member will insert a needle just below one of the

blossoms to collect the fragrance molecules. On return these will be studied to find if they are configured in a way that could not happen on earth.

Scientists say the process of growing a plant in zero gravity can be compared with an ice cube floating in a glass of water. Buoyancy created by water inside a cell means that molecules float, just as the ice cube rises to the top of the water. However, if there is no gravity, the molecules may not float and may position themselves in an unusual area of the cell, just as an ice cube could remain half-way up the glass if gravity and buoyancy did not come into effect.

The scientists are expecting to see chemical reactions that do not normally take place. These should result from molecules finding themselves in a different part of a cell and interacting with other chemicals with which they do not normally come into contact.

— Sunday Times

A shot in the arm

By Jean-Claude Elias

MARKETING SPECIALISTS are usually very good at creating new needs, new products or even at reviving existing ones. Those who work for the computer industry seem even better than the others at this game. Knowing that any manufactured product has a limited lifetime, and to ensure continuity in sales, they design and produce a new one while the previous is still at its apogee and before it enters its declining phase.

For the past 20 years or so, the information technology (IT) has succeeded in giving PC users a substantial shot in the arm every time it was needed. In the late eighties, Microsoft Windows operating system (OS) saved the industry. People were complaining of the limitations of the MS-DOS OS, its idiosyncrasies and of the difficulties to learn it. Even if Windows was far from being a perfect product (is it now?) it came just in time to revitalise the sales of computers and definitely established the machine as a friendly piece of equipment.

After Windows, the next dose of vitamins consisted of the celebrated CD-ROM drive. It was a fantastic booster and generated a chain reaction in the computer business. Users would not only acquire a CD-ROM drive and CD discs titles, they would also upgrade their machines to make a better use of the laser disc technology, overall. Which also translated into more memory chips, CPUs and hard disk drives sold.

The latest major shot is the Internet. It is such a powerful one that its full impact is not yet well known. It is also difficult to tell if it is currently in its rising phase or at its peak. It is certainly not in its falling phase. The Web has tremendously revived the interest of users all over the world. It is generating new PC sales, machine upgrades, Internet subscriptions and modems sales. It has

also created the e-commerce — the electronic business, done via the Internet — and has transformed the way people communicate and exchange correspondence, sounds and images.

It is probable, however, that the phenomenon soon will reach a cruising speed and that users will start taking it for granted, forgetting the thrill of the beginning. What would the next shot then be? We will certainly see faster PCs, faster Internet connection speeds and better software next year, but all this will hardly constitute a novelty. The next source of excitement may well be the DVD. Some call it the Digital Video Disc while others prefer Digital Versatile Disc. I find the latter more appropriate although we will all say DVD and won't care at all what the acronym means.

Thanks to its huge storage capacity, even when compared to the standard CD-ROM, the DVD will let us store impressive amounts of data — in the range of several gigabytes — on a media that is as compact, light and reliable as the CD-ROM. This will make watching motion pictures on your computer or TV, with very high quality image and stereo surround sound, a reality. But perhaps the real reason why DVD will become a major technological breakthrough is its wide compatibility. It is supposed to be the media to store data, movies, sounds, music and photographs. If it succeeds in replacing the audio cassette, the audio CD, the CD-ROM and the video tape, the DVD will be everywhere and sales of players and recorders should go skyrocketing.

You can buy a DVD drive now but manufacturers still haven't set the final technical specifications for worldwide compatibility. There are still problems between movie formats like NTSC and PAL, for instance.

Once these questions are solved, the DVD could prove to be a major shot of adrenaline for all PC users.

Jupiter's secret worlds



The scored and pitted icy surface of Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, may hide a warm ocean supporting primitive life.

Disturbances in Jupiter's magnetic field suggest water oceans Callisto and Ganymede may also have hidden seas.

EUROPA



The Galileo space mission will be followed by a new craft, Europa Orbiter, due to rendezvous with Jupiter and its moons in 2006.

Asia's post-crisis economic landscape seen as investor-friendly

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asia will enter the 21st century with sustainable economic growth rates, greater

transparency and improved corporate governance after weathering the current financial crisis, experts told a regional conference here.

But the task of rebuilding the region from the rubble of the worst crisis in decades will be painstaking because currencies have plummeted, corporate debt has skyrocketed, credit has dried up, production has sagged and growth stagnated.

The experts pictured the regional scenario in the new millennium at the just-concluded East Asian co-

ference of the Swiss-based World Economic Forum, based on the theme "shaping the new economic landscape in Asia."

With greater information disclosure by governments and businesses, tighter regulation of financial institutions and better management of capital flows, Asia would regain its lustre, predicted Sir Charles Powell, director of British conglomerate Jardine Matheson.

He said the key ingredients for recovery were Asia's ability to learn from

past mistakes and its core fundamentals — excellent trade links, commitment to hard work, family and education, a natural affinity towards markets, a high level of foreign direct investments and sophisticated infrastructure.

Peter Churchhouse, Hong Kong-based managing director of investment house Morgan Stanley Asia, noted that many investors had not been overly demanding when it came to corporate governance standards and poured money into less-than-transparent family companies with opaque corporate structures.

"This will inevitably change as the crisis inspires investors to require greater transparency," he told the conference last week attended by 1,000 top government and business officials, economists and

FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1- Ground floor apartment. Consists of 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, separate central heating, phone line. Location: Shmeisani.
2- 2nd floor apartment. Consists of 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, separate central heating, phone line. Location: Shmeisani.

PLEASE CALL TEL.: 5533543

(Continued on page 9)

La Maison Verte Restaurant
Fine French Cuisine
(Lunch & Dinner)

Now Open
on Friday

Serving You Every Day of
The Week!

Shemaisani, Tel. (06) 5685746

Milano

A totally new image, but with the same old incomparable quality of food and service.

Now introducing for the first time the new **WHOLE WHEAT DOUGH**, for a healthy pizza of your choice.

Also new on the menu:

- Fresh and smoked salmon pizza.
- Fresh salmon sandwich.
- shrimp cocktail.



For take out and delivery just call
MILANO restaurant at 568-0670.

Daily from 12:30-4:30 - 6:30-12:00 midnight

Naouri Group represents the Saudi Arabian Standards Organisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Since the beginning of October, Ammon Shipping and Transport Co., one of Naouri Group Companies, officially started its mission as representative of the Saudi Arabian Standards Organisation (SASO) in Jordan, after the regional staff obtained requisite training needed for this field in Sharjah, the UAE.

This is considered as one of the continuous efforts exerted by the Naouri Group, in order to develop Jordanian exports and open Saudi market to Jordanian products to the benefit of the Jordanian exporters.

It is worth mentioning that Saudi Arabia demands the SASO certificates for 66 imported products within dif-

ferent categories, such as electrical and electronic products, toys, cars and their accessories and products, chemical products and many others.

Mr. Ibrahim Naouri, Chairman of Naouri Group, expressed great relief after this important accomplishment, as previously inspectors from neighbouring countries had to come to Jordan to conduct proper inspection, while exporters had to wait for long time until the certificate arrives from Sharjah.

Mr. Naouri elaborated that the group will continue searching for every mean that can support Jordanian exports as well as the Jordanian economy.

Arabia.On.Line and UPI announce partnership

DUBAI — Arabia.On.Line and United Press International (UPI) Wednesday announced that they are joining efforts to develop a new age online news services by combining UPI's Arabia 2000 service content and Arabia On.Line's Internet platform, exposure, and technical integration services.

The new service, Arabia

2000 Online is a comprehensive, customised, easily manageable and dynamic news service that delivers the news feeds of more than 20 Arab news agencies, alongside the Arabic language services of some of the leading international news providers.

It represents UPI and Arabia.On.Line's vision and commitment to devel-

op an authentic information resource on the Middle East in both Arabic and English.

Services of the official news agencies of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Libya, Sudan, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran Tass (Russia), IRNA (Iran), Xinhua (China), and Voice of America (USA) will be

delivered online representing one of the largest ever bilingual content resources on the Internet.

The service, aimed at early 1999, will deliver initially around 12 news agencies, and will extend gradually to reach its aim towards the year 2000.

Established in 1995, Arabia.On.Line is the biggest and most popular service

catering for Arab audience inside and outside the Arab World, as well as international audience with interest in the Arab World. Arabia.On.Line's vision is to create the Arab World's digital nervous system that encompasses multiple disciplines across news media, online communities, and electronic commerce.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.8545	0.9977	1.3443	117.72	1.5427	1636.55	1.6651	5.5436
DE Mark	0.6044	-	0.3610	0.8120	71.17	0.9328	988.81	1.1272	3.3507
GB Sterling	1.6732	2.7892	-	2.2479	197.02	2.5812	2738.60	3.1209	9.2721
CH Franc	0.7438	1.2307	0.4443	-	67.59	1.1472	1217.40	138.73	4.1218
JP Yen	0.0085	1.4046	0.5071	1.1414	-	1.3101	13.90	158.41	4.0709
CA Dollar	0.6482	1.0485	0.3799	0.8519	1.31	-	1037.76	1.1829	3.5160
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0102	0.3648	0.8821	1392.56	0.9423	-	11.39	3.3877
NL Guilder	0.5362	88.68	0.3201	72.06	63.04	0.8267	877.01	-	2.9724
FR Franc	0.1804	0.2981	0.1076	24.2100	21.20	0.2781	33.62	33.6200	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7503	0.3770	3.6390	0.3011	3.6727	1501.00	3.3981
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2896	0.5317	5.1326	0.4247	5.1801	2117.07	4.7927
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1891	-	0.1006	0.97	0.0803	0.98	400.23	0.9061
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	8.9485	-	9.65	0.7987	9.74	3981.75	9.0141
Qatar Dinar	0.2748	0.1948	1.0306	1.0306	-	0.0827	1.01	412.48	0.9338
Kuwait Dinar	3.3212	2.3547	12.4553	1.2520	12.09	-	12.20	4985.05	0.9338
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0206	0.9908	0.0820	-	408.69	0.9282
Lebanese/1000	0.87	0.4724	2.4985	0.2511	2.4244	0.2006	2.4468	-	2.2639
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2086	1.1037	0.1109	1.0709	0.0886	1.0808	441.72	-

Energy									
Oils	Last	previous							
Brent	0.00	0.00							
W. Texas	14.15	14.35							
Bonny	0.00	0.00							
Dubai	12.60	12.92							
UL Gas	137.00	137.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4412	0.15835	0.35872	31.4051				
AE Dirhem	0.2723	0.45061	0.16272	0.3663	32.0688				
KW Dinar	3.3212	5.49753	1.94991	4.46828	391.236				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.38982	1.58529	3.56888	312.402				
CY Pound	2.0381	3.371	1.2174	2.7392	239.797				

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	8374.03	7.99	0.1	8395.14	8328.71	8366.04		
New York	S&P 500	1064.5	-0.74	-0.07	1067.65	1059.65	1065.34		
London	FT-SE 100	6256	-75.2	-1.41	6291.4	6250.6	6331.2		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	13516.07	-304.61	-2.2	13820.8	13618.1	13620.7		
Paris	CAC 40	3487.71	-63.04	-1.78	3507.56	3462.94	3550.75		
Frankfurt	DAX	4541.18	-141.27	-3.02	4642.85	4526.21	4682.45		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery							
Coffee (c/lbs)	106.76	Spot							
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1921	Spot							
Sugar (\$/ton)	222.7	Spot							
Wheat (\$/ton)	125	Spot							
Soya (c/lbs)	24.79	Spot							
Tea (stg/kg)	125	Spot							
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot							
Rice (\$/ton)	395	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell							
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1843	1.1902							
DE Mark	0.4284	0.4305							
CH Franc	0.5265	0.5291							
FR Franc	0.1278	0.1284							
JP Yen	0.9999	0.6029							
NL Guilder	0.3793	0.3812							
IT Lira	0.4327	0.4349							

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Portico of ancient Greece
- Concludes
- Conform
- Pakistani language
- Sticky, wet stuff
- Gift recipient
- Useless ones
- Shower month
- Painful feeling
- Imprint again
- Alamos
- City on the Arno
- Bull-planting tool
- Ultimatum word
- Russian-born painter Chagall
- Well worker
- Matt Garmon film of 1997
- Swindle
- Cruel
- Hot tubs
- Small river
- Puts in turf
- Boxing wins, briefly
- Superlatively early
- Went along with
- Natural hair-colouring
- Jack Lemmon film of 1964
- Composer Blake
- Lamb's pen name
- North Carolina school
- Spirited horse
- Parakeet staple
- Visualizes

DOWN

- Sweatener
- Figurative use of a word
- Fragrances
- Financial examination
- Bip-headedness
- Negative conjunction
- Puts on
- Thread roller
- Firm attachment
- Murder
- Bancroft or Meara
- Wooden fasteners
- Hardy girl
- Flutist
- Walked (on)
- "La Boheme" heroine
- Sacred hymn
- City in Provence
- Little pieces
- Radar image
- Work units
- Omelet ingredients
- Take apols
- Excessively acid
- Advantage
- Total disorder
- Sapped
- Take apart
- Fashion lion, e.g.
- London district
- Pigeons
- Geeks
- Follow as a consequence
- Low hisser
- Domesticated
- Bronze and iron, e.g.
- Joint disease
- Housecoat
- Actress
- McClurg
- Look lustily
- Hasten
- Evil

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZAUGE

BEGOF

BOFRID

DARZAH

Print answer here: A

Saturdays | Jumbles: COLIC FLUID WAYLAY HAZIN

Answer: A skier at the top can end up here — DOWNHILL

No victory, no crowd for Juventus

[illegible]

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Shouaa back in training

MAINZ (AFP) — Olympic gold medal winner Ghada Shouaa is back training after a near two year break. Syria's heptathlon star, world champion in 1995, is aiming at a defence of her Atlanta title in Sydney 2000 under the guidance of her German trainer Axel Schaper. The 25-year-old was forced out of action suffering from a back injury two months after the Olympics.

Kazakhstan in FIFA championship

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Kazakhstan has broken new ground in Asian soccer, becoming the first Central Asian team to qualify for a FIFA world championship, the Asian Football Confederation said Wednesday. Kazakhstan, long billed as an underdog, qualified for the 1999 FIFA World Youth Under-20 Championship in Nigeria after finishing second to Saudi Arabia in a recent group match held in Thailand, said a statement from the Malaysian-based AFC.

Sutton is staying insist Rovers

BLACKBURN (AFP) — Blackburn Rovers on Wednesday vowed to keep Chris Sutton at the English Premier League club — even if they do sign England striker Dion Dublin from Coventry. Rovers are optimistic about clinching a £6.75 million (\$10.5 million) deal for Dublin despite newspaper reports that the England striker was being tempted to join Newcastle instead. Rovers chief executive John Williams said: "Our move for Dion Dublin is about strengthening the squad not about replacing one player for another. Chris Sutton is not for sale."

Runner in marathon with new heart

ERFURT, Germany (AFP) — The winner of the 1980 Olympic gold medal for walking is competing in Sunday's New York marathon equipped with an artificial heart. Hartwig Gauder, who underwent transplant surgery 21 months ago, said here Wednesday: "I train like everyone else."

Mets keep another top player

NEW YORK (AFP) — One day after signing catcher Mike Piazza to the richest deal in baseball history, the New York Mets still had enough money to reach a contract agreement with southpaw pitcher Al Leiter. The Mets scheduled a news conference to announce the signing of Al Leiter to a four-year, \$32 million deal after locking in Piazza for the next seven years at a cost of \$91 million. Leiter, 33, led the Mets in victories and like Piazza was eligible for free agency. He made \$3 million in 1998 after arriving from Florida, going 17-6 with a 2.47 earned-run average and 174 strikeouts. Leiter has a record of 77-59 with a 3.74 ERA in 201 career games, which also includes stints with the New York Yankees and Toronto. He has pitched in two World Series and hurled a no-hitter for Florida in 1996. By assuring \$123 million to two players, the Mets' payroll could leap to about \$65 million last year.

Aikman ready to return

DALLAS (AFP) — Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman, who has missed five games with a broken left collarbone, will return on Monday when National Football League team visits the Philadelphia Eagles. Aikman suffered the injury September 13 in the second quarter of Dallas' 42-23 loss to the Denver Broncos in week two of the American football league season. Doctors have cleared his return. "Troy had two good days of practice last week and is ready to return," Cowboys coach Chan Gailey said. In Aikman's absence, the Cowboys went 3-2 under backup quarterback Jason Garrett to move into sole possession of first place in the weak NFC East division, one game ahead of the New York Giants and Arizona at 4-3. Despite a history of concussions, Aikman had not missed a start due to injury for 60 games before being shelved by the broken collarbone. Aikman, 31, is one of only three NFL quarterbacks to guide a club to three Super Bowl titles, those in 1993, 1994 and 1996. He completed 56 percent of his passes for 3,283 yards and 19 touchdowns last season. At Denver, Aikman scrambled to his right and landed hard on his shoulder after he was tackled by Denver defensive end Neil Smith.

Clemente to coach Real Betis

SEVILLE (AFP) — Former Spanish national team coach Javier Clemente is poised to take over as coach of first division relegation strugglers Real Betis, the club said Tuesday. Clemente resigned last month after six years in charge of the national team which made a shock first-round exit from the World Cup finals in France. Clemente will become Betis' fourth coach since the end of last season after Vicente Cantatore resigned from the troubled club on Monday. Betis are bottom of the Spanish league with only five points after seven matches.

Rotterdam to host Euro 2000 final

ROTTERDAM (AFP) — The final of the 2000 European Nations championships will be played at the De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam, organizers announced Tuesday. The Rotterdam venue, home of club side Feyenoord, was preferred to Amsterdam's The Arena as the venue for the championship match of the tournament, which will be jointly hosted by Holland and Belgium. Other matches in the tournament will be played in Amsterdam, Arnhem, Brugge, Charleroi, Eindhoven and Liege.

Fire goes for double in U.S. Open

CHICAGO (AFP) — Fresh off winning the Major League Soccer title in their first season, the Chicago Fire comes home Friday with the chance to achieve a rare double by winning the U.S. Open Cup. The Fire, which beat D.C. United 2-0 in Sunday's MLS title game at the Soldier Field in the finals of the 85-year-old national tournament for the Dewar Cup. Lowly regarded for most of its history, the trophy was revived when MLS was formed three years ago. United won the 1996 MLS and Open Cup and years ago. United won the double in 1997, losing to Dallas in the nearly repeated double in 1997, losing to Dallas in the scheduled for August 26 and re-set for August 27 in Virginia Beach, Virginia, but postponed twice due to Hurricane Bonnie.

Asian Games organisers promise sophisticated drug testing

BANGKOK (AP) — The upcoming Asian Games will be the first major sporting event to use a sophisticated new technology to test athletes for drugs, a spokesman for the organisers said Wednesday.

The games' doping control center will use a carbon isotope ratio mass spectrometer, said Torpong Sewatarmra. The high-tech apparatus was tested at the Winter Olympics in Japan, said a news release from the Bangkok Games Organising Committee.

"This is the most sophisticated instrument to test athletes for drugs," said Torpong. "The technology has the ability to detect forbidden drugs even at a very low quantity."

Despite the high cost of such equipment, the organising committee believes it will help make the games fair and clean for all participants, the news release quoted Ruangsak Siripol, the committee's chairman, as saying.

A list of forbidden substances will be given to the heads of all 43 participating national teams and they will be reminded not to let athletes use medications containing banned substances, it added.

Earlier this month, Thailand began random drug tests on its own athletes, hoping to keep them from using banned substances and to avoid possible embarrassment.



Alex Corretja

Corretja's winning form goes missing

STUTTGART (AFP) — Spain's Alex Corretja suffered an alarming drop-off in his indoor cup form Wednesday, losing 6-2, 6-4 Jan-Michael Gambill in the second round of the \$2.45 million Eurocup Open.

Corretja, who has already qualified for next month's eight-man ATP Tour World Championships in Hanover, Germany, was easily handled by American Gambill, 50th in the world.

Seventh-ranked Corretja — the first Spaniard since 1976 to win an indoor title when he triumphed on Sunday in Lyon, France — was nowhere near his top form at the Hans Martin Schleyer Halle.

Gambill goes through to play Briton Tim Henman, the ninth seed, in the third round.

Corretja joined Spanish seeded compatriot Albert Costa on the sidelines. The 16th-seeded Costa and No. 9 Karol Kucera of Slovakia lost 24 hours earlier.

Last year's finalist Richard Krajicek of Holland, the No. 11, advanced easily over Swede Magnus Norman, 6-4, 6-1 at the penultimate Mercedes Super 9 tournament of the year prior to next week at Paris Bercy.

Twelfth seed Jonas Bjorkman stumbled in the second set against shot-making Italian veteran Gianluca Pozzi, but broke in the fifth game of the third to re-establish winning momentum in their second-round match.

The Swede claimed a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 win after Pozzi saved three match points in the final game on the way out.

The elite of the game were due in second-round action later after opening byes.

No. 1 Pete Sampras and rivals Marcelo Rios of Chile and Patrick Rafter were due on court.

All three are hoping that niggling injuries which forced Sampras and Rios to pull out during last week's Lyon event are now behind them.

Sampras experienced back spasms, Rios had a thigh problem and Rafter is constantly bothered by a hip. Sampras and Rios

Committee reviews Jordan's preparations for Pan-Arab Games

Kick-boxing brings number of events to 27

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The five-man Supervision and Follow Up Committee of the 9th Pan-Arab Games held its first meeting Wednesday to review Jordan's preparations for the upcoming event, scheduled to be held here Aug. 15-31, 1999.

Games Director Isam Aridah told reporters that the committee which includes representatives of the Arab League, Council of Arab Sport and Youth Ministers, the Arab Sport Federation (ASF), and a fifth Jordanian representative toured installations in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa.

Aridah said that among the issues the committee discussed during their inaugural meeting were ways on how to ensure the participation of top Arab athletes in the Games, which coincides with major international contests that will be held a few days after the Arab Games.

He pointed that some suggestions were made, including the advancement of athletes' contests in the tournament, a main issue on the agenda of the Executive Committee in its meeting today (Thursday).

Aridah said the committee will also discuss the number of events that will be included in the tournament, which stand at 27 after the inclusion of kick-boxing.

He said that representatives of the Council of Arab sports and youth ministers will arrive here in May to inspect facilities and assess Jordan's preparations ahead of the 18-day Games.

The five-man team, formed earlier

this month by ASF President Prince Faisal Bin Fahed, is scheduled to hold its second meeting next month.

Aridah said that construction works of the Prince Mohammad Sports City in Zarqa, where some of the games are expected to be held, are expected to be inaugurated as early as next December.

He added that construction works of the Qweisneeb Sports City are expected to be finalised by next February while the Olympic Swimming pool will be ready by next April.

Arab Sports Federation (ASF) Secretary General Othman Al Sa'ad stressed that the tournament will be inaugurated on the scheduled day without any delay or postponement, referring to reports that it coincides with other international events such as the African Tournament and the World Athletics Championship.

The ASF official was accompanied by two representatives of the Council of Arab Youth Ministers, Abdul Hameed Wakeel and Arab League representative Hani Mustafa.

Earlier this month, Sa'ad said the list of the Games includes 12 compulsory games, four team sports and eight individual. Other optional events could be added depending on the number of countries willing to take part in each event.

Jordan has earmarked JD11 million for the Pan-Arab Games with JD4 million allocated for spending this year. However, recent reports noted that the total cost would amount to JD18 million.

Since the ASF advanced the date of the upcoming Games to 1999, the

Council of Arab Sports and Youth Ministers increased aid to the Kingdom to enable it to prepare infrastructure and update sports facilities ahead of the largest gathering of Arab youth.

Aid from the Arab League had been raised to \$200,000 while the Council of Arab Ministers will grant \$1,000,000 instead of \$700,000.

Additional sponsorship for Jordan's bid will be garnered through slashing the 50 per cent ASF margin of profit on promotion and television coverage in addition to selling television broadcasting rights to private companies, which would secure millions needed to cover costs.

The 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut witnessed the best Jordanian showing since the Pan-Arab Games were launched. Competing in 14 of the 20 events, Jordan finished 5th overall among 19 competing countries, taking a total of 40 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze medals.

Sugiyama, Huber advance in Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Ai Sugiyama of Japan and Anke Huber of Germany advanced on Tuesday to the second round of the Luxembourg Open.

Sugiyama, the No. 5 seed, recovered from a weak second set to beat Kveta Hrdlikova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Huber, the No. 6 seed, defeated Rita Kuti Kis of Hungary 7-5, 6-2.

Defending champion Anand Coetzee of South Africa opens play Wednesday in the \$164,000 tournament sponsored by the auto maker Seat.

Also, qualifier Sylvia Pliske of Austria upset Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascal 6-4, 6-2 and will next face top-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Another qualifier, Evgenia Koulikovskaya of Russia, moved on when Poland's Magdalena Grzybawska retired.

Koulikovskaya was leading 6-1, 1-5.

Halloween Menu

Dracula's nightly passion
Zombie soup
Frankenstein spare parts
Ghostly horrors
Witches brew
Free flow of blood included

Halloween

Enjoy a Zombie night in a scary atmosphere at
Latinos Restaurant & Bar.

cover charge with welcome drinks: JD.5 per person + 20% taxes
cover charge & set menu: JD.15 per person + 20% taxes

For reservation,
contact us now on 5696511 ext. 6532

SALSERA DANCE STUDIOS

Teaching the art of dance in its many wonderful forms:-
Separate classes for adults, children and teenagers.

Trip dancing, Modern Jazz, Classical Ballet
Dance aerobics, Boys rap and Caucasian Russian dance
Flamenco
G.T.S.S. Gentle toning stretch and strengthen (suitable for mature ladies also)
BALLROOM:- WALTZ, TANGO, SALSA and MERINGUE.
Call to confirm classes - Tel: 5862404, 5863048 or
Mobile: 079/522914 Fax: 5411418
Sited near MacDonald's, Sweifheh

FULLY FURNISHED VILLA FOR SALE

3-storey, American-style villa. Consists of 4 bedrooms (2 master), 5 bathrooms, kitchen, fireplace, barbecue, independent garden, garage, maid's room, extra storage room, nice decoration, water fountain. Area: 273 sq.m.
Location: Near Geneva Hotel, 7th Circle, Abdullah Ghoshah Street.
Price: JD128,000 (non-negotiable).
Please call: 5861247

FOR SALE

- Music System (Technics 404/505)
- Photo Camera (Olympus IS 2000)
- Sony Handycam (8 mm)

(Immaculate condition)

Contact Mr. Shah at Tel.: 5922939 or 4612264

ENGLISH FOR LIFE

Winter Course 1998
3 November - 23 December 1998

Testing and Registration:
1 and 2 November
12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Fees:
Test & Registration Course
JD7,000
JD120,000

For more information call us on 4636147/8, 4613368, between 11:00am and 5:00pm
Fax: 4056413 or 4611389
E-mail: DTD@SC-AMMAN@sc.com

The British Council Language Centre

The British Council encourages people to improve their English language skills by offering a complete range of communicative language courses with beginner to advanced levels.

This term we offer:

- General English
- IELTS training
- Cambridge University First Certificate in English
- Conversation in English
- Arabic for Beginners
- English for Young Learners (6 - 16 year-olds)
- English for Business (LCC)
- Commercial Law (LCC)

Quality Language Learning Worldwide

JORDAN TIMES EMAIL:

jotimes@go.com.jo

Iraq complains about spare parts supply delay

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has not received any spare part for its dilapidated oil industry more than four months after the United Nations approved their purchase under an expanded oil-for-food plan, the country's foreign minister said.

Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf blamed the United States and Britain for the delay, and in a letter he sent to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday that said the hold-up would worsen Iraq's humanitarian situation.

"Iraq has not received even a single spare part for its oil installations despite that more than four months have passed," Sahaf said in his letter carried by the official Iraqi news agency.

Sahaf said Iraq had concluded 450 contracts with oil companies to buy spare parts. "Some 197 out of them were submitted to 661 [U.N.] sanctions committee, but only 55 contracts were approved due to the American and British envoys who put on hold 61

contracts," he said.

Sahaf urged Annan to "interfere personally at the Sanctions Committee and the U.S. and British governments in order to speed up the process of approval." A U.N. report obtained by Reuters on Tuesday said that the Sanctions Committee had approved 19 more contracts for spare parts bringing the total approvals to 75 worth \$72.43 million.

Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Mohammad Rasheed said last week that he did not expect spare parts to reach Iraq before the end of next month. He accused Washington of delaying or blocking spare parts contracts.

The U.N. Security Council had earlier this year approved an amount of \$300 million to be spent to repair Iraq's oil industry which was heavily bombed during the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

In February, the Security Council agreed to raise to \$5.25 billion from \$2 billion the limited oil sales

allowed Iraq but Baghdad said this was beyond its capacity and a target of \$4 billion was agreed. But falling oil prices and the lack of oil industry spares have put even this beyond reach.

In another letter to Annan, Sahaf complained about what he said was the failure of the U.N. agencies to carry out the oil deal in northern Iraq, outside Baghdad control since the end of the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

The Iraqi government is responsible for distributing goods bought under the plan in central and southern Iraq while distribution in the north is supervised by the U.N.

"The shameful figures of implementation arouse concerns that the U.N. agencies may be unable to continue to implement the programme," Sahaf said.

In July, Sahaf asked Annan to allow Iraq to have a role in implementing the programme in the north but till now there has been no answer.



EXPLOITING IMMUNITY: Right-wing Israeli parliamentarians carry barbed wire past border police as they build a fence around the site of a future East Jerusalem Jewish enclave on Wednesday. Members of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) opposed to the latest peace deal with the Palestinians used their parliamentary immunity to bypass police opposition to erect the barbed-wire fence around the Ras Al Amoud project in an Arab neighbourhood (Reuters photo)

PNA curbs foreign press entry into Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has imposed restrictions on the entry of foreign journalists into the Gaza Strip following a dispute over coverage of Palestinian opposition to the latest peace accord signed with Israel, officials said Wednesday.

The press office of Yasser Arafat's autonomy administration said that foreign journalists must for the first time apply for prior permission to enter self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip.

PNA officials gave no explanation for the measure, which was not previously announced but apparently came into effect on

Sunday. The Foreign Press Association, which represents some 200 journalists working in Israel and the Palestinian territories, on Wednesday sent a strongly worded protest letter over the restrictions to the secretary general of Arafat's office, Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

"Such limitations will have a suffocating effect on freedom of the press and hence are totally unacceptable," the letter said. The curb on press access to Gaza followed the arrest by Palestinian police on Friday of 10 Palestinian journalists and a foreign reporter who were interviewing a leading Islamist

on the latest Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement signed that day in Washington.

Police detained the journalists and confiscated film and video cassettes of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) who strongly criticised Arafat for signing the accord and said his group would continue its armed struggle against Israel.

The agreement, negotiated at the Wye River retreat outside Washington, provides for further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank and increased action by the PNA against Hamas

and other groups which advocate continued armed resistance against Israel.

The arrests were viewed as a first sign that the PNA was trying to implement the Wye River accord by limiting media coverage of Hamas.

In its protest letter, the Foreign Press Association noted that the Wye River agreement "specifically stated that human rights — presumably including freedom of speech — should not be infringed in the name of security measures."

"Harassing journalists and banning freedom of travel is not in the spirit of this agreement," it said.

'Wye agreement must be implemented on time'

(Continued from page 1)

"Mr. Netanyahu is simply trying to create a problem," Dahlan told The Associated Press. "He is trying to place obstacles in front of implementation of the agreement."

An American official who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the Palestinians have until Monday to present their plan and that no one has violated the agreement yet. U.S. diplomats however met with Palestinian officials Wednesday in an attempt to prevent any delays in implementation.

Arafat, meanwhile, said he was confident both sides would keep their promises and that he was not concerned about the postponing of the Israeli cabinet meeting.

Arafat, who returned home Wednesday, nearly a week after signing the agreement, received a carefully orchestrated welcome by flag-waving school students lining the streets of his border town.

The Palestinian leader said he was certain Israel would carry out the agreement despite Tuesday's decision by Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu to postpone indefinitely an Israeli cabinet meeting that would approve the deal.

"I think that what has been signed will be implemented accurately," Arafat said after arriving at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

"There are American guarantees and international guarantees and Arab guarantees," Arafat said. "The signing was at the White House... in the presence of President Clinton." Netanyahu has said he would not carry out the withdrawal if his cabinet failed to approve the agreement or if the Palestinians did not live up to their promise to wage a tough campaign against Islamists.

Trying to convey a message of broad support for the agreement, the Palestinian National Authority had Palestinian school students line the road Arafat took from the border crossing to his headquarters in Gaza City.

The children waved Palestinian flags and waved banners reading "Yes to those who free the land, no to those who sell slogans," the latter a reference to Arafat's Islamist opposition.

Syria slams Albright for remarks

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria criticised U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Wednesday for calling on Arab countries to do more to normalise relations with Israel, saying her appeal undermined the Arab position.

"Albright's call to Arabs for normalisation with Israel is surprising, because it saps the strength of the Arab position," said Al Baath, newspaper of the ruling party by the same name.

After the Cairo Arab summit two years ago and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit in Tehran last December participants called for a halt to normalisation with the Jewish state. "Albright's remarks, which contain threats, are totally misplaced because they hold the Arabs responsible for the peace process freeze while she knows perfectly well who is really responsible," Al Baath said.

"Albright ignored all the obstacles thrown out by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and behaved as if the Arabs were the ones rejecting peace," State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday that "Secretary Albright believes, with the peace process now reinvigorated, Arab states should do more to normalise relations with Israel."

Priests seen leaving brothel to be punished

NICOSIA (AFP) — The fate of two priests photographed leaving a brothel in the latest embarrassment to the Cypriot Orthodox Church will be determined by the Holy Synod Thursday.

Archbishop Chrysostomos said. "One of the two will definitely be defrocked," Chrysostomos said Wednesday.

After the photos of the two men exiting a brothel in the southwestern city of Paphos were shown on the privately run Antenna television station last week, the Nicosia Archbishopric called for priests to come forward to identify the pair.

"As you know, the priest of Ayios Tychonas left his family behind to run off with some Roman woman," Bishop Chrysostomos of Paphos told reporters Monday. The priest from Ayios

Tychonas, who abandoned his wife and children to elope with a Romanian stripper three weeks ago, "defrocked himself" by taking unscheduled leave, church sources said.

The Holy Synod, the church's highest council, has only to make the defrocking official when it meets Thursday, they said.

The case against the second priest, who is from another southern village, Handria, is weaker. Church sources said Chrysostomos has been "convinced of his innocence."

"One will certainly be defrocked, and the second will be disciplined," Chrysostomos said.

The Handria priest telephoned another privately run television, Sigma, earlier in the week and said he had only been accompanying the Ayios Tychonas priest, who is his relative.

Pro-Kurdish paper closed down by court

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish newspaper focusing on Kurdish issues said on Wednesday it had complied with a court closure order, joining a series of Turkish publications banned under laws limiting freedom of expression.

The newspaper Ulkede Gundem had attracted frequent official charges of being a mouthpiece for Kurdish guerrillas fighting a 14-year-old campaign for autonomy in the southeast.

A state security court ordered it to shut for one month over an article judged to have "incited hatred" along ethnic lines.

The verdict, upheld by the appeals court, is the first of a series under appeal. "Effectively we have been closed down indefinitely because we face one closure case after another," the paper's publisher Yurdusev Ozsozmenler told Reuters.

The appeals court has yet to rule on convictions demanding its closure for 302 days. A further 180 cases are pending.

Ulkede Gundem has suffered the same fate as a series of newspapers closed down in recent years, including Ozgur Gundem, Ozgur Ulke, Yeni Politika and Demokras.

"The closure of our newspaper, for the same reason as its predecessors, has confirmed once again that freedom of the press and expression does not exist in Turkey," Ozsozmenler said. Last Friday, police raided the newspaper's printing works in Istanbul and prevented publication of its final issue after the appeals court issued its verdict.

Western governments and human rights groups have repeatedly criticised Turkey's record in dealing with vocal dissent linked to the conflict, in which more than 29,000 people have died.

Man presents female X-ray to escape draft

MOSCOW (AFP) — A young Russian showed army doctors an X-ray of a pelvis with a medical condition in the hopes of avoiding the draft — but was as surprised as doctors when the pelvis turned out to be that of a woman. ITAR-TASS said Tuesday. "How many times have you given birth, young man?" the doctor asked the embarrassed conscript, from the Siberian town of Vladivostok. Miserable living conditions and widespread violence in Russia's army have caused large numbers of military-aged men to try to escape their military service.

Tobacco makes smokers impotent

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai men's sex lives will go up in smoke if they don't quit tobacco, according to the ministry of public health, which plans to print that warning on cigarette packs. Starting Nov. 5, all cigarette packs sold in Thailand will carry warning labels stating "Smoking causes impotence" and "Smoking causes ageing," a ministry official said Wednesday. He spoke on condition of anonymity. The new rule applies to both domestically-produced and imported cigarettes, he said. The labels will have white lettering on a black background and be placed on the top of the pack.

Mayor arrested on strange church incidents

PARIS (AP) — The mayor of a small town in eastern France has been arrested after townspeople reported exploding vases and flying candlesticks in a church. Delain, Mayor Thierry Marceaux was detained Tuesday and was to go before a court on allegations he was behind the mysterious occurrences. Europe 1 Radio reported. About 50 people said they saw the strange events earlier this month which some thought had angered the spirits there. Moving the altar a few inches seemed to trigger the explosion and explosion of holy objects, witnesses said. An exorcist was even called in to try to figure out the goings-on.

Skating legend poses for Playboy

CHICAGO (AFP) — Nude pictures of German figure skating star Katarina Witt, former Olympic skating champion, are to grace the December issue of Playboy magazine. The 33-year-old Witt reportedly made between \$500,000 and \$1 million for the outdoor photo shoot in Germany. "Every morning, for the three days we shot them, I would go see the stylist and ask, 'What will I wear today?' And of course, he'd say, 'Nothing.' That was our joke," Playboy quoted her as saying. "An athlete has a different, more open relationship to his or her body," she added. "Athletes have beautiful bodies. Why not show that?"

Russian postal workers grab the chance

MOSCOW (AFP) — For months, postal workers in the Omsk region of central Siberia stole pensions paid to people living in isolated villages, relying on the administration's reputation as a bad payer to cover their wrongdoing. ITAR-TASS reported. Since last spring pensioners living in nearby towns and villages were paid normally, but those in remote villages or isolated hamlets got nothing, the report said. The latter were not particularly surprised to get no money because in Russia's chaotic financial situation, pensions are often paid late or sometimes not at all.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis bust two counterfeit networks

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi authorities have dismantled two networks which forged passports and residence visas in the Holy City of Mecca, which attracts Muslim pilgrims from around the world. Okaz newspaper said Wednesday. It said several Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Myanmar nationals were arrested, as well as a Saudi. More than 40 seals of government agencies used by the counterfeiters were seized. Each year, after the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites in Mecca, western Saudi Arabia, tens of thousands of Asian and African nationals are rounded up after staying on in search of jobs in the oil-rich Gulf Arab state.

2 Austrian tourists kidnapped in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — Armed Yemeni tribesmen kidnapped two Austrian tourists in southern Yemen Wednesday morning, a tribal leader told AFP. "Armed members of the Al Bakazem tribe kidnapped two Austrian tourists at 8 a.m. [local time] in the Mahfad region," around 200 kilometres east of the port city of Aden, said the tribal leader, who asked not to be named. There was no official confirmation of the abductions.

Qatari FM in Turkey for celebrations

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jabr Al Thani left for Ankara on Wednesday to join in celebrations for the Turkish Republic's 75th anniversary, the official QNA news agency said. Sheikh Hamad said his visit followed an invitation by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Dubai to launch sports TV channel

DUBAI (AFP) — Dubai TV will launch a satellite channel for regional and international sport, newspapers reported on Wednesday. The state-run station said it would encourage sporting events in the Gulf emirate, without giving a date for the launch of Dubai Sport. The United Arab Emirates already has four satellite TV stations: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Ajman.

Palestinian airport to open at last, but potential disputes loom

DAHANIYA (AP) — Gaza International Airport has shiny new terminals, a control tower ready to be filled with state-of-the-art equipment, a VIP lounge that resembles something out of Arabian Nights. It has everything, in fact, except planes and passengers.

That's about to change. The airport — a potent symbol of Palestinian statehood hopes — is to be inaugurated within a matter of days, its long-delayed opening finally cleared under the land-for-peace accord signed last week in Washington.

But it remains to be seen whether the airport, with security responsibilities shared by Israel and the Palestinians, will turn out to be a showcase of cooperation or a new source of tensions.

In many ways, the airport's opening represents a leap of faith on Israel's part, marking a significant loosening of the Jewish state's security grip over the Palestinian lands.

Up until now, the West Bank and Gaza Strip have had no direct link to the outside world. Gaza has no working seaport, and the Palestinian lands' external borders are controlled by Israel.

Set in the gritty flatlands at Gaza's southern tip, the airport's Moroccan-designed buildings — all elegant archways and gleaming glass — have an incongruous look amid a landscape dotted with prickly pear and plastic greenhouses.

Pink Hebron stone and multi-coloured Moroccan tiles with Islamic motifs adorn the terminal buildings' floors and walls.

The VIP lounge boasts a replica of the ceiling dome at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

On Tuesday, workers were busy installing woodwork and steam-rolling asphalt in the parking lot. Armed Palestinian guards couldn't resist an occasional joyride in an open-backed jeep along the 3,000-metre runway, long enough to accommodate all but the biggest jumbo jets.

The Palestinians want to stage a festive inauguration of the 1,125-acre \$64 million airport sometime in early November. But the specific date — like many other operational decisions — still needs Israeli approval.

Once the airport is running, Palestinians will carry out their own passenger check-in, but a second and likely more stringent document

and luggage inspection will be done in a joint Israeli-Palestinian wing.

All flight plans must be approved by Israel, which controls the airspace over the Palestinian lands. The airport will be closed only one day of the year, and that in deference to the Israelis: Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

Even under such strictures, Palestinians are bursting with pride over the opening, which originally was to have taken place two years ago.

"It's a very, very important symbol to us, of what we have already achieved, and what we hope to achieve — statehood," said Brigadier General Fayed Zaidan, the airport's director.

To underscore that point, the Palestinians hope to have landings soon by as many foreign dignitaries as possible — most notably President Bill Clinton, who is to visit in December.

Another salute to Palestinian pride will be finally having a base for their flagship carrier, Palestinian Airlines, which can roll out its prize possession: a Boeing 727 donated by a Saudi prince. It has not yet been determined what other airlines

will fly there.

The airport's opening will likely be a point of personal satisfaction for Yasser Arafat, who spurned Israeli offers to land his own official plane there, saying he would wait until it was open for general use.

At one point, the Palestinian National Authority wanted to name the facility Yasser Arafat International Airport, but quietly backed off. Zaidan, the director, said the Palestinian leader asked that it not be named after him — at least for now.

Once open, normal operations will be phased in slowly, starting with regular service to Amman, Jordan, Cairo, Egypt and Jeddah.

For now, though, the Palestinians are taking deep satisfaction in the small things, pointing with delight to an international designation that will include GZ for Gaza in the airport code.

Airport Director Zaidan, a 53-year-old veteran of the Jordanian and Libyan air forces, had the look of a man who had come into his own at last.

"There are sure to be problems — that's just life," he said. "It just takes time. And that we have."